**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, February 26, 2023**

**The Temptation Of Jesus Christ**

Matthew 4:1-11

**Key Truth:** Temptation and evil are real, unavoidable aspects of life. Only God has the power to help us overcome them.

**Defining Temptation** – It’s an enticement to act contrary to God’s will. James 1:13-15

**Defining Testing** –A test is given to allow a person to prove their character and to prepare them for a greater purpose. Hebrews 11:17

**A Battle In The Wilderness:**

1. God is sending Jesus into the wilderness to test His

 faithfulness as God’s Son.

2. Satan is tempting Jesus in trusting God’s provision.

3. Satan is tempting Jesus to gain notoriety apart from suffering

 on the cross.

4. Satan is tempting Jesus with temporary fame, power and

 prestige.

**What We Learn:**

1. Jesus withstood Satan’s temptation by obeying the word of

 God.

2. Satan is already defeated, so don’t be afraid of him or

 intimidated by his temptations. 1 Peter 5:6-11

3. Scripture is alive and powerful, so don’t hesitate to stand on

 the Word of God. James 4:7

4. Jesus Christ is our example on how to resist temptation, so

 don’t lean on your own strength. Hebrews 4:14-16

5. Sin is a choice, so remember that you don’t have to yield to

 temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Look to Jesus and His strength along with the promises of God in His Word to defeat temptation.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there a particular kind of food that’s tempting to you? What is it?

Think about what goes through your mind when you are tempted by that food. What does that show you about the nature of temptation? How does it work?

Do you think temptation is hard or easy to recognize? Why?

Read Matthew 4:1: What does that tell us about what it’s like to be led by God’s Spirit? What does it teach us about the nature of temptation?

Read Genesis 3:1–6: Notice how Satan twisted God’s words, sowed seeds of doubt in God’s goodness, offered tantalizing pleasures, and hid devastating consequences. What similarities do you see in the devil’s tactics in tempting Jesus?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:14: What is Satan’s primary mode of operation and strategy for attack? If Satan is the master of deception, how might you more effectively recognize his tricks?

Psalm 1:1-3: What is one thing that distracts you from daily studying the Word of God? What habit or routine needs to change for you to make the study and memorization of the Word a priority?

Psalm 119: 9-11: Why is knowing the Word of God essential to overcoming temptation? What can you do this week in that regard to be better equipped for the temptation that will come?