



“Stop Giving the Devil Credit”

Matthew 4:1-11 | 02.26.23

Sermon Recap

- The Lord’s Prayer should probably be translated, “Lead us not into testing, and deliver us from *the evil one*.”
- In Matt. 4:1, we’re explicitly told that Jesus was led into the wilderness by God’s Spirit to be tested.
- Jesus was tested after his baptism to prepare him for everything he would face during his public ministry.
- Perhaps we should stop giving the devil credit for the testing that we face and consider how God is using it as an opportunity to strengthen us for what lies ahead.
- Just like Jesus we can persevere through the challenges we face by trusting in God’s Spirit, emptying our lives of things that we depend on rather than God, and being nourish by God’s word.
- Just as Jesus was in the wilderness for forty, we enter the wilderness now to prepare what lies ahead for the next forty days during the season of Lent.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What is your least favorite vegetable?
2. What questions does this week’s message leave you with?
3. Have you ever considered that God’s Spirit might be leading you into a time of testing? If not, how does this week’s message shape your thought process?
4. What will you do to depend more heavily upon God’s presence during the Season of Lent?

THE VINE



5. How have you witnessed God's grace recently?

6. How can we pray for you?