

## Reflection Guide

Mark 1:12-13; Matt 4:1-11

**Big Idea:** What kind of Son Is Jesus? What is the relationship like between God the Father and Jesus? These answer to these questions matters because the kind of Son Jesus is determines the kind of Savior we have which directly impacts how we can face and overcome temptation.

### Temptation in the Redemption Story

As we see how this particular story on Jesus' temptation fits into the larger Redemption story throughout the Bible, it is important to see how this situation parallels the experience and temptation of God's people. We see this first in the Genesis story. (Genesis 3)

#### In the Garden

Its not meant to be a coincidence that both Jesus and Adam were tempted to eat. First, Adam ate the fruit from the tree and then Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. In both situations Jesus and Adam are tempted by Satan to doubt God.

Satan tempted Adam to doubt God's Word - "Did God really say?" (Gen 3:1)

Satan tempted Jesus to doubt His Sonship – "If you're really the Son of God (Matt 4:3)

#### In the Wilderness

Another parallel with this story of Jesus' temptation is Israel's temptation in the wilderness. After being delivered from slavery in Egypt, God's people were tempted and tried in the wilderness for 40 years before they entered the land God had promised. Israel was tempted in some of the same areas that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

- 1) In their Sonship (Ex 4:22) God calls Israel His Son and after delivering them from Egypt, He brings them into the wilderness
- 2) In their Experience: throughout Jesus's temptation, each time He was tempted by Satan He responded with verses from Deuteronomy chapters 8 and 6 – both of which deal with Israel in the wilderness.
- 3) In their Baptism: In 1 Cor 2:10, Paul refers to the Red Sea crossing as Israel's baptism. After crossing through the Red Sea, Israel was led into their testing in the wilderness. Likewise, Jesus, after His baptism was led into the wilderness to be tempted.

In short, the temptations of Adam and Israel parallel the temptation of Jesus to show that Jesus identifies and relates to us in our temptations. Our temptations are of the same nature: to see God against us, and to believe that He is withholding something from us.

**What temptation have you encountered recently?**

**What lies about God are you tempted to believe?**

**"God knows \_\_\_\_\_. What God actually meant is \_\_\_\_\_"**

**What lies about your son ship are you tempted to believe?**

**"If you were God's child then you would/wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_"**

### The Temptations

#### 1) Self-Gratification

*[2] And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. [3] And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."*

Jesus was just declared to be God's Son and now the devil begins to whisper...*"if you're really God's Son, why are you out here starving?" "If you're hungry why isn't dad taking care of you?" "Just go ahead and take care of yourself...just go ahead and satisfy that desire. There's nothing sinful about being hungry and eating some bread."*

The temptation is one of self-gratification. Jesus was being tempted to provide for His needs apart from God. We are no different, we all have desires given to us by God – good desires, physical desires, and emotional desires. God has created and given us these desires in such a way that we are meant to look to Him to satisfy those desires.

In the Garden, Adam and Eve were created with a physical desire for food, but Satan tempted them to believe that God could not meet their desires and that He was withholding something – so they sought to fulfill their desires outside of God

In the wilderness, Israel desired food and provision and believed the lie that God was withholding something from them. So God sent them manna.

Jesus responds to Satan by saying *"[4] But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""*

Jesus quotes this from Deut 8:2 which states *"And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you; testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."*

The sin beneath Israel's sin and our sin is unbelief. We don't trust that God will provide and therefore we seek to take matters into our own hands. Satan takes our good desires, the things that we should look to God for fulfillment, and he tempts us to take our satisfaction into our own hands.

*"every attempt to satisfy your wants apart from His will, will not lead you to delight; it will lead you to destruction." The bread of the devil always leads to destruction. And yet, it suddenly deceives you, convincing you that it will lead to delight."*

**What are some unfulfilled desires in your life? (career, relationships, image, intimacy)  
How have you taken your self-gratification into your own hands?  
What about self-satisfaction is better than satisfaction in God in our moments of temptation?**

## **2) Provision**

*5] Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple [6] and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.""*

This time, Satan's aim in this temptation is to put God's provision and protection to the test. He essentially says "So, *"if you're really the Son of God and you will trust God to fulfill your desires in His way according to His Word, then doesn't He say that He'll command His angels to protect you?"* Although he quotes Psalm 91, he twists its meaning in order to get Jesus to question His Sonship.

Jesus's response is "[7] *Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* And is based on Deut 6:16 which states "*You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.*" This passage points to Exodus 17 where the people of Israel begin to grumble and complain to God and doubt his presence among them due to their lack of water. To satisfy their doubt, they began to test God.

We, like Israel, like Jesus in the wilderness, are tempted to question God's provision, presence, protection and try then to manipulate His promises in order to put Him to the test so that then we can actually believe.

We're tempted to ask for signs that He's still with us—that He will show His presence to us—when He has shown His faithfulness to us over and over and over again.

Satan is tempting Jesus to doubt and to then put His father to the test to prove His provision and protection of His Son.

**What evidence of lack has led you to question God's provision?  
What hurt or pain has caused you to question His protection?  
What leads you to believe His presence isn't with you?  
What "signs" are you looking to/asking for for your assurance?**

### **3) Suffering**

*[8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [9] And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." [10] Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."*

Have you noticed how hard Satan has worked in these temptations to keep Jesus from suffering?

"God doesn't want you hungry, Jesus...make some rolls." "God doesn't want you dashed on the rocks, Jesus....call for His angels" and "You don't need to suffer on the cross in order to gain authority, Jesus....here's a better way to it."

But for Jesus to do so, he would have to believe that the most pressing need for humanity was hunger and not the need for forgiveness, reconciliation with God, salvation and redemption.

*"Satan's aim in the wilderness was to hinder Jesus from suffering. Because the suffering and death of Jesus meant the final destruction of Satan and the salvation of you and me. And Satan's aim in this church today is to hinder you from following Jesus when he says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (in the path of suffering)" (Luke 9:23)." – Piper*

Moore - *"Jesus refused to exchange the end-time exaltation by the Father for a right-now exaltation of a snake. Jesus, the beloved Son, knew the supreme duty of every single person on the planet is to worship God. And He knew that everyone who humbles himself before the Lord will be exalted, so He chose to live a life of suffering obedience to the Father instead of sinful submission to Satan. And in the end, all authority in heaven and earth were given to Him."*

**What things have you done in the thought that "I don't have to/want to suffer"?  
How are you tempted to preserve your comfort?  
How can Jesus's suffering serve as foundation in leading you to embrace suffering?  
How can His overcoming temptation give you joy and strength in facing yours?**