



Pastor Hanke's Blog

March 1, 2020

Navigating Temptation

Bible Reference: Matthew 4:1-11

What is your greatest temptation? I think most of us would answer with some type of food dilemma, whether it is candy, cookies, salt, or any other food item you can't get enough of. This is a great cover up answer, but below the surface we would find a deep seeded issue that pushes our weak spot. I am convinced everyone is battling an addiction to something. We love to only call out addictions our world has defined as addictions, and sweep the others under the rug like we don't struggle with them. It is hard for us to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask "Am I addicted to gossip? judging others? work? television? social media? shopping?" The list could go on and on.

What if I told you Jesus' temptation in the desert was all about overcoming the addictions & temptations of the people of God? Would that surprise you? History shows us the people of Israel struggled with God's provision for them, specifically in the desert when they pondered if the food they had in slavery was better than what God was giving them. They struggled with believing God could truly protect them. And finally, they struggled with trusting God was the *only* God. Jesus overcame every one of these temptations/addictions of the people of Israel when He was tempted in the desert by Satan. What temptation/addiction would have been written down for you that Jesus needed to overcome?

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent, and we will start by addressing the temptations we face and why Jesus faced those specific temptations in the desert. We see how Jesus responded to each temptation and what it teaches us about how to respond to temptations of our own. Perhaps instead of giving something up for Lent, we should use this time to ask how to prepare ourselves for the temptations coming our way. Then on Wednesday we really kick everything off with our series on prayer. Two other churches in the St. Louis area will also be doing this same series...*Pray Like This*. You will get a kit to help your prayer life in Lent and to be ready for the temptations the enemy has. See you on Sunday.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will