



Christmas in the Wilderness! – Seeing Jesus in this Season

Jesus' wilderness test offers important lessons. Jesus' tests offer something good that Satan proposes and can be attained in an easy way. That is how *external* tests entice us. We're running late, so we're tempted to break traffic laws. We need to make a sale, so we exaggerate a product's benefits. But unlike Jesus, we also face *internal* tests—from bad habits, from patterns of sin that make us more susceptible to sin. Jesus shows us how to resist temptation—swiftly, immediately rejecting it and drawing on God's Word to do so. Above all, Jesus' tests assure us that he understands our weakness and temptation. He genuinely faced temptation; it appealed to him, and he turned it down. We—as the redeemed—can do the same.

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Wilderness: Jesus Enters the World. - John 1:1-14
 Christmas in the Wilderness! – Seeing Jesus in this Season – Jesus TESTED.

December 10, 2020

Bible Verses: Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:1-11; James 1:14, 15; James 4:7-10

Music: 40 Days with 40 Days Song by Matt Maher
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYWejPmqgEg>

Videos: It's A Wonderful Life - Potter's Offer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzX5cGKN6Eg>

Resources: *Walking with God through Pain & Suffering* by Timothy Keller.

Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores by Diane Langberg.

Restoring the Shattered Self—A Christian's Counselor's Guide to Complex Trauma by Heather Davediuk Gingrich.

Christmas in the Wilderness: Jesus Tested in the Wilderness.

1. _____ → Satan's temptation of Jesus shows that Jesus's work as a man redeems us from the curse of sin and death. Paul tells us explicitly that there is a connection between the first man, Adam, and the second or last man, Jesus. Romans 5:12–21 compares the disobedience of Adam to the obedience of Christ, indicating that it is the obedience of Christ that constitutes for us a righteous status in the eyes of the Lord. The Apostle clearly teaches that in order for us to be saved, Jesus had to succeed where Adam failed.
2. _____ → Jesus underwent a test that was similar to Adam's, but it was actually far more difficult. Adam met Satan in paradise, where life was easy. Jesus met Satan in the desert wilderness where the environment was hardly friendly. Adam enjoyed the company of his wife, Eve. Jesus was alone. Adam was well fed from the trees of Eden. Jesus was fasting. In short, Adam failed even though he had everything going for him, but Jesus succeeded even though, humanly speaking, the odds were stacked against Him. Like Adam, Jesus was tempted to disbelieve God's Word, to pit one part of it against another and to think that the Father was not telling Him the whole story. Being fully confident of the Lord's truth, however, Jesus never gave in to Satan's lies.

Christmas in the Wilderness: The 3 Tests of Jesus.

1. _____ → The Test was to turn stones to bread. After fasting 40 days and nights, he was hungry. "If you are the Son of God," the tempter taunted, "tell these stones to become bread" (Matt. 4:1–3). This is the temptation to possess material things at the wrong time and place. When Jesus didn't eat or drink, he got thirsty and hungry. He knew he could use his powers to serve himself, but he chose to live in God's strength. (Matthew 4:3–4).
2. _____ → Satan then invited Jesus to leap from the temple. How wondrous to leap from the height of the temple, far above the multitudes, to accelerate, then drift gently to the ground. How blessed to hold, in memory's hoard, this proof, this knowledge of the Father's provision! For us, the desire to seize knowledge that's not rightly ours is probably a desire to avoid living by faith. For most of us, knowledge also means control. Augustine warns that there is an "empty desire to possess" knowledge, a lust to see something new, to satisfy morbid curiosity. But we should be content to live by faith, not by sight. (Matthew 4:5–7).
3. _____ → Jesus's third temptation is confrontational. When Satan offers the kingdoms of the world if Jesus bows to him, he again presents a good goal attained the wrong way. Christ will possess the glory of the kingdoms of the world, but he will attain them by his death and resurrection. In fact, when Jesus said *no* to Satan, he was saying *yes* to the cross. He also showed himself to be the one true man, for he resisted the temptations Adam and Eve and everyone after them face: the temptation to know, as God does (Gen. 3:5), the desire to be like God (Gen. 3:5), and the temptation to take what we wish for physical needs or pleasures (Gen. 3:6). (Matthew 4:8–10).

Christmas in the Wilderness: Lessons from Jesus' Tests.

1. _____ → No one is exempt from temptation, from being tested.
2. _____ → Being Tested – Temptation is not the same as sin.
3. _____ → Respond to tests—temptation with God's word.
4. _____ → Resist the devil in the power of the Spirit.
5. _____ → Pursue the will of God.

Christmas in the Wilderness: How to Face Tests.

1. HOW BEING TESTED WORKS (James 1:14–15):
 1. Thoughts.
 2. Act on it.
 3. Becomes a habit.
 4. Brings death.
2. HOW TO FACE TESTS (James 4:7–10):
 1. Humble yourself.
 2. Actively resist.
 3. Purse God.
 4. Grieve your sin.
 5. Humble yourself.

ACTION: Journal this!

1. How will you celebrate Christmas this year?
2. What will help you to overcome the cultural pull of Christmas?
3. Who do you know that is in the Wilderness?

Bible Verses – The Message

<p>Hebrews 4:15 - 15 We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all - all but the sin.</p> <p>Matthew 4:1-11 - 1 Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. 2 Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, 3 which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread." 4 Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth." 5 For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, 6 "Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone." 7 Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God." 8 For the third test, the Devil took him on the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. 9 Then he said, "They're yours - lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're</p>	<p>yours." 10 Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness." 11 The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs. Teaching and Healing</p> <p>James 1:14, 15 - 14 The temptation to give in to evil comes from us and only us. We have no one to blame but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust. 15 Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin! Sin grows up to adulthood, and becomes a real killer.</p> <p>James 4:7-10 - 7 So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. 8 Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. 9 Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. 10 Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.</p>
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"40 Days" by Matt Maher

<p>Forty days to wander Forty days to die to self Forty days to grow stronger As faith breaks open the gates of hell The jubilee is over But grace is far from gone In the hearts of the faithful Broken on the wheels of love 'Cause in the desert of temptation Lies the storm of true conversion Where springs of living water drown and refresh you</p>	<p>And as the Jordan pours out change Your true self is all that remains Where springs of living water bind and break you Bind and break you Forty days to remember The Paschal Sacrifice Forty days to discover His passion calls us to new life The jubilee is over But mercy's far from gone In the arms of the Father</p>	<p>As the wayward child comes home 'Cause in the desert of temptation Lies the storm of true conversion Where springs of living water drown and refresh you And as the Jordan pours out change Your true self is all that remains Where springs of living water bind and break you Bind and break you Bind and break you Bind and break you</p>
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