

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

March 21, 2021 ~ 9:00 AM

In our Sanctuary (*please wear a mask*)

or

Outside Parking Area

Services on YouTube

meadowbrookbaptist.cc

March 14, 2021

Worship Attendance 33 World Hunger \$16.29

Budget Offering \$2,191.00

Weekly Needs to Date \$29,150.00

Weekly Offerings to Date \$23,677.60

MARCH IS OUR MONTH OF *PRAYER AND GIVING*

for

"The Mission Moves Forward"



Meadowbrook's Goal ~ **\$800.00**

Given to Date -- \$175.00

Marks Gospel

JESUS TEMPTED

Matthew 4:1-12 / Mark 1:12-13 / Luke 4:1-13

In the Ring with the Devil

We all know what temptation is – the desire to do what we know we should not do. When we become Christians we come in contact with an evil, dark spirit-being; who constantly tries to keep us from doing what we know the Lord wants us to do. These are not simple “choices”. They are burning desires that require all the strength we have. Ephesians 6:10-20 says:

“We are fighting against evil rulers and authorities from the unseen world / with their plans and strategies.”

This is what happened to Jesus right after He committed to “**be made to be sin**” to bring us forgiveness (2 Corinthians 5). The full weight of it seems to have hit Him right after His baptism. Up until then, He was *thinking* and *deciding* about it; but now, before John and thousands of people, He committed to **do** it. And Satan was filling His mind with all kinds of suggestions of

other ways to save people. The Holy Spirit inside of Him, let Him know He needed to get alone with the Father and work it out.

It seems He was tempted to be a *bread messiah* - *meet people's basic needs* - food, clothing, shelter and love, including His own. Could He have been wondering why He could not have a wife and some children, and live a long life helping people and sharing the gospel?

Then He thought about being a *miracle working* Savior. One part of this was to put God to the test, and see if He really was the Messiah. The Old Testament said angels would catch Him if He fell, so Jesus thought about jumping from the top of the temple to see if they would.

The other part is that He could use His power to abolish wars and remove all diseases. People from all over the world could come for healing and hear the gospel. If we could heal every child on earth, few of us could resist the urge to do it.

It's difficult to see how Jesus could be tempted to *worship the devil*. He may have been thinking that healing people, and abolishing war and poverty were “good things”. Luke puts worship and service together (4:8), so Satan meant “serve me in just these areas” and serve God everywhere else. This is like a husband telling his wife he would like to love and be with her 364 days a year; but also spend one day a year with an old girlfriend. Jesus knew it was a sin *for Him*, because He would be disobeying what He knew was God's will for Him.

The War Inside Us

Jesus did not “want” to go through the horrors that awaited Him. He wanted “another way”. We see this in His battle with Satan at the close of His ministry in Gethsemane; where He asked the Father over and over if there was “**some other way.**” (Matthew 26:36-44)