

# MATTHEW: sermon study guide

Pastor: Kent Priebe

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## Sermon Title: Tempted: Controlling Appetites - Matthew Series Sermon 8

### IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Are there things that you don't like to eat or do? What are they? When faced with those things, what is your reaction?
2. What do you do when faced with an overwhelming desire, yet know that giving into that desire would not be right?

### UP - PURSUE GOD

3. Last week, Pastor Ashwin said "Temptation in essence is a battle between two voices." This week, we read about Jesus hearing those two voices. How did He prepare to meet and overcome the temptation to listen to and act on a voice other than His Father's?
4. Read *Deuteronomy 8:2-4*. This was the 'desert' experience for the nation of Israel. How did God provide for them? What did He want Israel to learn about His provision from this experience?

### OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Kent said that we can be tempted to question God's provision for us when it looks like He is not coming through. How could lessons learned from the immediate cravings of Jesus, Abraham and Sarah, and the people of Israel, help you to get through your times of temptation?
6. Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." In what situations do you most often find yourselves facing temptation? How will you begin to implement changes to help you overcome temptation?

#### **For Personal Reflection/Prayer:**

Guidelines for us not to give in to temptation: first, we recognize how, where and when Satan might tempt us. Secondly, we need to decide ahead of time that we will trust in God's timing and provision to meet our desires.

This week, write a list of temptations that you may have in your life and how you intend to respond victoriously.

**This week's writers:** *Edi Dygert, David McMillin, Sandi Somers and Norm Milgate*

### THE WORD (NIV)

#### **Matthew 3:13 - 4:4**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

#### **1 John 2:16**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

#### **John 6:35, 38**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

<sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

#### **Matthew 7:9-11**

# MATTHEW: sermon study summary

## **Tempted: Controlling Appetites**

**Matthew 3:14 – 4:4**

**Pastor Kent Priebe**

It's not what we dislike that gets us into trouble; more often it's what we want. Our unchecked desires and cravings weaken us and we become susceptible targets for Satan to tempt and lead into sin. In this lesson from Matthew, Satan tempts Jesus to use His divine power to provide for His needs (Matthew 4:3). The Spirit had deliberately led Jesus into the wilderness for testing. After fasting for forty days, Jesus was hungry with a very human appetite and need for food. Matthew states the obvious here; he also treats Satan as reality, not myth. Satan appears, speaks, and negotiates carefully and strategically as he tries to manipulate Jesus to believe a lie about His Father and to act outside of God's agenda.

The Bible says that forces of evil are real, complex and intelligent: chief of them Satan. Their entire purpose is to tempt and lead us away from knowing and living in communion with God. Throughout Scripture, we see Satan doing the same thing with Adam and Eve in the garden, with Israel as a nation, and with David, Solomon, and others. In Matthew 4, Jesus is tempted; the beloved Son of God is no exception. We have all been tempted; we will all be tempted.

Jesus has won this victory for us in the ongoing battle, and He helps us not to give in to temptation. **First**, we have to recognize how, when and where Satan might tempt us. Even God's good desires created in us can be used against us. It was not wrong for Jesus to be hungry and desire food after fasting. We also have desires coming from within us (1 John 2:16) for Satan to exploit. Reflect on your weaknesses and vulnerabilities. Do we put ourselves in the wrong places? Do we get tired of waiting for God to provide? Do we give up and go with our plans? We must know ourselves to plan ahead so that with prayer and with God's help we won't give in.

**Second**, we need to decide to trust in God's timing and God's provision to meet the desires we do have. We must know the truth of God's word and promises. Jesus knew why He was fasting and that He was being tested. He knew the affirmation of His Father's voice when He was baptized, (Matthew 3:17). He quotes Scripture to turn aside Satan's temptation of self-provision, (Matthew 4:4). The concept of bread resonated deeply with Jesus. He was born in Bethlehem – which translates into 'House of Bread'. He fed large crowds with bread. He taught his disciples to pray, 'give us this day our daily bread'. A good father provides for his children, (Matthew 7:9). Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35, 38).

**Third**, we need to see our desires, appetites and cravings as signposts pointing to our real need. Moses reminds the people that for four decades God provided, protected, fed and cared for them. He tested them with their appetites. They thought they were given food and water to get them through the desert; God was trying to teach them that they needed Him alone.

We need more than bread to live. Our heart's desires point to the One who leads us into life, desires that can only be met by a real relationship with Jesus. Even when we give in to temptation, with His grace, He brings us back to life for He is the one who died for us so that we can be forgiven.