

Lent:
Deepening Spiritual
Formation in the
Wilderness

Turning Stones
into Bread

S E R M O N R E S O U R C E

OUR LITURGY

*The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.
Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!*

CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

- When you hear the word “bread,” what comes to mind first? (e.g., food, money, security, comfort, provision, work, survival)
- Where do you feel the most pressure right now to “make things happen” on your own?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Read Matthew 4:1-11

- Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness mirror Israel’s 40 years—and even Adam and Eve’s temptation in the garden.
- The first temptation is not about food—it’s about trusting for provision.
- The enemy questions Jesus’ identity (“If you are the Son of God...”) and invites Him to meet a legitimate hunger in an illegitimate way. Hunger isn’t a bug, it’s a feature!
- This temptation is a template for how desire, scarcity, and self-reliance work in all of us.

Read: James 1:14-15

- According to James, where does temptation begin?
- Why is it important to remember that desire itself is not the problem?
- Where do you most often feel pulled by good desires that could lead you away from trust in God?

Read: Genesis 1:29 and Genesis 2:9, 15-17

- How would you describe God’s original design for provision in Eden?
- What words stand out to you about God’s world at the beginning?
- How does the serpent’s question (“Did God really say...?”) introduce scarcity thinking?
- Where do you hear that same question today—in your thoughts, culture, or decisions?



- Scarcity says: “There’s not enough. I need to store up more.”
- Abundance says: “God has already provided and will provide all that I need.”

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2–3 (the passage Jesus quotes)

- Why do you think Jesus responds by quoting Scripture instead of debating?
- What does it mean to “live by every word that comes from the mouth of God”?
- How does knowing God’s character, not just His promises, help us resist temptation?

Read: Matthew 6:24–27

- How does worry reveal what we truly trust?
- What would change if you genuinely believed God would provide what you need?
- What is one area where God may be inviting you to loosen your grip and live more open-handed?

“Jesus views the world as a place of abundance where we don’t need to worry. You and I look at the same world through the deception of scarcity, the lie that there is not enough.”

Tyler Staton

APPLICATION

– 30 MINUTES

You can survive by frantically turning stones into bread. But you thrive when you trust the God who has already spoken abundance over your life.

What does “turning stones into bread” look like in modern life? (i.e. Overworking, Hoarding rather than giving generously, Controlling outcomes, Ignoring God’s rhythms, etc?)

- When do you feel most tempted to rely on yourself instead of trusting God?
- How does anxiety reveal what we believe about provision?



- Which mindset—scarcity or abundance—do you most naturally live from?
- How does that show up in your finances, time, or relationships?

Pray slowly and quietly this prayer from Lectio 365:

*Jesus, I want to see through your eyes—
so that my greed becomes gratitude,
my anxiety becomes peace,
and my hands move in generosity.
Remind me of the abundance you've already given me.
Show me one resource I'm holding too tightly,
and one person or place where you're inviting me to share.
I trust you. Amen.*

GOING DEEPER

— 7 MINUTES

Listen to this interview from the Bible Project in which Tim interviews two driven, ambitious, successful Harvard Business School students who received a whole new vision of how their money could be part of God's Great Story here and now.

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