



JULY 16: The Temptation of Jesus **I CAN CHOOSE THE DOOR OF WISDOM**

“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. ‘For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” – Matthew 4:10

Luke 4:1-13, Matthew 4:1-11

There is so much noise in our lives today. Television shows are feeding us thoughts and bad ideas, we are addicted to our phones and social media, and we often surround ourselves with friends who give us ungodly advice. So many opinions, skewed morals and unwise counsel can leave us confused and searching to find God through the noise.

Satan uses worldly things like this as a distraction, to tempt us away from God and toward destruction. He even tempted Jesus when He was wandering through the desert. God had sent Jesus to the desert to spend time with Him through prayer and fasting for 40 days. Eventually, the heat and hunger took a toll on him and Satan seized an opportunity to tempt Jesus. He appeared to Jesus, tempting Him three times: physically by appealing to His hunger and turning a stone to bread, tempting His pride by offering protection from throwing Himself off a cliff and tempting Him with power by offering to give Him all the kingdoms of the world.

However, Jesus was smarter than Satan, and even in His time of great desperation, He chose wisdom over foolishness. He knew what Satan offered Him was only a temporary trick, but God offered Him true, everlasting life. He used God’s Word to fight off Satan and used the temptations to draw closer to God.

The world we live in is a desert – distant from God, full of things that can hurt us and ultimately leaves us feeling dry and desperate for Living Water. The world is sinful and filled with temptations and the only thing we can do to survive is search for God and use His Word to guide us through the rough terrain as Jesus did. We need to trust that His wisdom will become our own. If we make the right choice when we are tempted to make the wrong one, we allow God to fulfill His purpose in us.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Describe a time when you have been tempted to make the wrong choice.
2. During this time, what did you hear Satan telling you and what did you hear God telling you?
3. How can you draw closer to God when you are being tempted in the future?