

## First Sunday of Lent - Unarmed “Power Without Force”

*Matthew 4:1-11*

*Power doesn't come from winning the test, it comes from refusing to cheat.*

### **Welcome To The First Sunday of Lent**

*The season of Lent offers us a time to consider how best to identify with Jesus during the forty days from the Cross to Easter. This series will teach us what it means to face injustice, evil, and suffering by laying down everything but love.*

***Today, we are going to read a passage from Matthew's Gospel about Jesus' time of testing or preparation in the wilderness prior to his ministry.***

***POWER DOESN'T COME FROM WINNING THE TEST, IT COMES FROM REFUSING TO CHEAT.***

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

- *The time and space of this part of the Gospel are important and symbolic.*
- *It's important to understand the symbolism of “the devil” in the text.*
- *The “devil” stands in here as an agent of the Empire or kingdom of this world.*
- *Food Insecurity under the Romans, Political power, Dramatic revelation.*
- *Jesus counters with Scripture and with a refusal to bow to the Empire.*

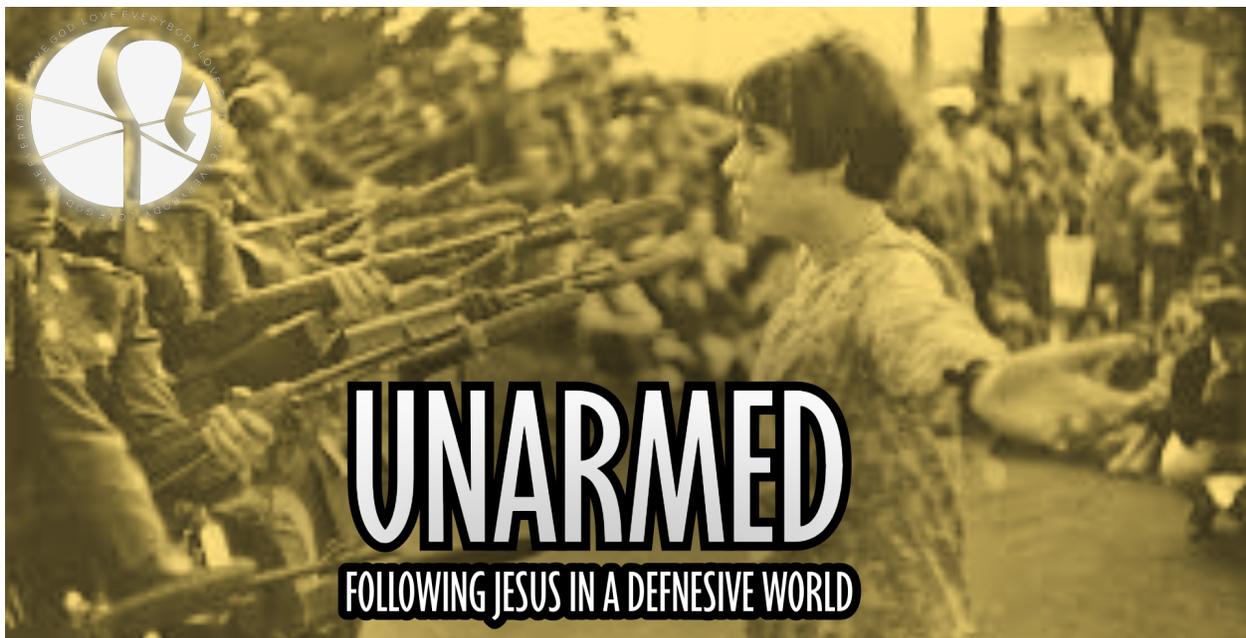
***The kingdom of God doesn't come by force. Its power is in transformation through love and sacrifice.***

### **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and The Strength to Love**

#### **Some Important Questions**

1. *Where in your life are you being challenged to choose kingdoms?*
2. *What can we do to live more heart-forward in a world of force?*
3. *What would it look like if we began to lead with love?*

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## SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

### FOR FURTHER READING:

#### **Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent**

*Richard Rohr*

#### **Show Me The Way**

*Henri Nouwen*

#### **A Way Other Than Our Own**

*Walter Brueggeman*

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*The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon's blog, linked on Tumblr, Medium, LinkedIn, and the church's Facebook Page.*