

## **Following Jesus Into The Wilderness-Matthew 4:1-11 (Pastor Aaron Crane)**

Matthew 4:1 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

*"Temptation is an assault by the demonic powers on the rival empire of the Messiah."*  
-Russell Moore (Tempted and Tried)

Hosea 11:1 *Out of Egypt I called my son.*

1-FOLLOWING JESUS DOESN'T ALWAYS LEAD TO COMFORT, BUT IT ALWAYS LEADS TO FORMATION.

*"Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is."* -C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

Matthew 4:2-4 *After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

2- TEMPTATION IS NOT ALWAYS ABOUT DOING BAD THINGS; SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT MEETING GOOD NEEDS WITHOUT TRUSTING GOD.

*"Satan always presents the bait and hides the hook."* -Kevin DeYoung (An Ugly Fall)

*"Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God."* -John Piper (Future Grace)

Matthew 4:5-7 *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

3-FAITH DOES NOT DEMAND PROOF; FAITH RESTS IN PROMISE.

Matthew 4:8-9 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

4-AT THE CORE OF EVERY TEMPTATION IS A BATTLE OVER WORSHIP.

Matthew 4:10-11 *Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

*"Your hope is not based on how well you are doing, but on what Jesus has done for you."* -Paul David Tripp (New Morning Mercies)

4 questions:

- 1-Where am I interpreting the wilderness as abandonment, instead of formation?
- 2-What "stones to bread" shortcut am I most tempted to take right now; meeting a real need but in a Godless way?
- 3-Where am I demanding proof from God, instead of resting in what He's already promised?
- 4-What or who is competing for my worship-my trust, my obedience, my ultimate allegiance?

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.*