

Not By Bread Alone
Matthew 4:1-11

Review:

1. Sometimes we are tempted to get the right thing at the wrong time
2. Sometimes we are tempted to get the right thing in the wrong way
3. Sometimes we are tempted to put good things in God's place, making them into idols
4. We must rely on God's means of grace – the Word, the Sacraments, and prayer, to help us resist the temptations that come our way

Go Further: Read Deuteronomy 8:1-20

1. In verse 1, what four reasons does God give His people for observing His commandments?
2. What does God want His people to remember in verse 2?
3. Why did God allow His people to remain in the wilderness for 40 years?
4. According to verse 3, how did God humble His people? Why do you think this would be a humbling experience?
5. What lesson did God want His people to draw from His providing for them in this way?
6. According to verse 4, how did God bless His people during their time in the wilderness?
7. What comparison does God make between Himself and human fathers in verse 5? Do you find this comparison comforting? Why or why not?
8. In what two ways does verse 6 tell us to keep God's commandments?
9. How do verses 7-9 describe the land into which God is bringing His people?
10. According to verse 10, how should the people respond to God's blessings?
11. In verse 11, what does Moses warn the people that they might be tempted to do?
12. What reasons do verses 12-13 give for the people falling into the temptation to forget the Lord? Why might being blessed in such a way have this effect?
13. What effect does verse 14 say that tremendous blessings can have on our hearts? Why do you think this might be the case?
14. In what ways do verses 14-16 recall that God cared for His people in the wilderness?
15. Why does verse 16 say that God protected and provided for His people in this way?
16. What reaction does verse 17 say that people might have to all of God's gifts and graces?
17. Why does verse 18 say that the people should remember God?
18. Why does verse 18 say that God empowered His people?
19. In what ways does verse 19 say that people can forget the Lord?
20. What do verses 19 and 20 say will happen to those who forget the Lord and disobey Him?

Apply:

1. Verses 7-9 describe the land Moses promised God would give His people, and verses 14-16 describe the way God cared for His people while they were in the desert. If you were to describe the ways God has blessed you and protected you, what would you include? Does counting your blessings in this way help you avoid temptation? Why or why not?
2. How do you react to the notion that God uses difficult circumstances in our lives to humble and test us?
3. In what ways have you experienced the sorts of temptations Jesus encountered in the desert?
4. In what ways has God empowered you to fulfill His promises to you and to others (see Deuteronomy 8:18)? How can you avoid the temptation to pride that such power can give you?