

“The Nastiest of ‘Bugs’”

Based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) March 1, 2020

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Matthew 4:2-10

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he (Jesus) was hungry.

3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

6 "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.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

† Each temptation deals with normal desires.

1) Hunger (Verses 2-4)

2) The need for protection (Verses 5-7)

3) The want for power and success (Verses 8-10)

† Jesus knew and applied God's word in his life.

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

† Jesus was tempted when he was most vulnerable.

† Satan tempts me when I am the most vulnerable.

† Everyone is tempted to sin, even Jesus.

† Temptation itself is not a sin.

† The sin is when I give in to temptation and disobey God.

† The closer I am to Christ, and so to God, the more righteous life I live, the more temptations I will encounter.

† To defeat temptations, I need to live the phrase WWJH__D:

† What Would Jesus Have _____ Do?
(Insert my name)

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† What temptations have I faced lately?

† How quickly did I give in?

† Did I use my faith in Jesus to help me through or did I try and do it alone?

† This week, when I am tempted (and I will be tempted):
- What would Satan have me do?

- What would Jesus have me do?