



“Wrestling with the Wild Things”

Matthew 3:13-4:11

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“Before you wrestle with the temptation in your own life, you’ll need to see the horror of what it really is, as well as the glory of how Jesus triumphs over it. Jesus walked through the cycle of temptation for us, and does so with us. Like ‘a lamb that is led to the slaughter’ (Isa.53:7), he walked out into the wilderness and onto the stairway to hell.”

~Russell Moore, *Tempted and Tried*

- 1) Read Matthew 3:13-17. Why does Jesus get baptized? What does baptism symbolize? Who is Jesus, according to His Father?
- 2) Read Matthew 4:1-11. What is the first part of temptation? (hint: What does Satan question?) What is the second part of temptation? (hint: what does Satan offer?) What is the third part of temptation? (What is conveniently left out in Satan’s offers to Jesus?)
- 3) How would you summarize the three different temptations as they relate to life as a human being? What impresses you most about Jesus’ ability to stand strong in the wilderness?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“Our salvation hinged on Jesus’ mouth.” ~Russell Moore

- 4) How does Jesus’ voluntary death on our behalf demonstrate God’s provision, protection and pride?
- 5) What did Jesus die and rise to give us?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*Though afflicted, tempest-tossed,
Comfortless awhile thou art,
Do not think thou canst be lost,
Thou art graven on my heart.
All thy walls I will repair,
Thou shalt be rebuilt anew,
And in thee it shall appear,
What a God of love can do.*

~John Newton, From the Hymn, *“Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart”*

- 6) Russell Moore argues that you and I are on the verge of wrecking our lives because of the subtle way temptation come into our lives. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- 7) Which of the three kinds of temptations are you being assaulted with right now? What strategies do we need to fight them?
- 8) Give God thanks for Jesus’ victory and that we are more than conquerors in him. And ask our Father in heaven to lead us not into our particular temptations. Use the time to pray for one another.