

**Feb. 22 - Scripture:** Luke 4: 1-30

*A verse that speaks to you:* These passages speak to the Temptation of Jesus, and His rejection in Nazareth.

Verse 4:8 - "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only" - emphasizes a basic guiding principle for our Christian lives.

*Observation:* Jesus had just been baptized by John and immediately was led by the Spirit in the wilderness. During this time of fasting and immersion into the will of God, Jesus was tempted. In fact, Matthew (4:2) says that the temptations began AFTER he had fasted 40 days and nights. Satan knew who Jesus was so had to approach in His weakness. Remember that Satan tempted Jesus - he knew who was in charge, and coveted that power. Despite his apparent weakened state from isolation and fasting, Jesus turned to the Word of God to illuminate the temptations for what they were - distractions from the path that God has planned for us.

*Application:* When we accept Jesus Christ as our redeemer, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is God's Spirit that can keep us strong in our weakness, and guide us through the Word to resist the many temptations that we face in life. Satan is crafty and waits on our weakened state to offer tantalizing avenues to quick happiness and satisfaction. Weaknesses brought about by busy schedules, by physical exhaustion, by self-centeredness, by lust, by greed. In our weakness we can be strengthened by God himself! We are never alone - His Spirit is indwelling and only awaits a call to action! We can be refreshed and strengthened against temptations by taking up "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph 6:17)

*Prayer:* Heavenly Father, forgive my moments of doubt and weakness, when temptations gain in their appeal and draw me away from your will. Renew my soul and infuse me with your Spirit, that I may stand strong and steadfast in the presence of the tempter. Lead me to your Word so that I may be prepared to recognize these distractions for what and whose they are. Illuminate the path that you would have me take so that I might clearly see the traps and pitfalls set before me. Strengthen me in the name of Jesus, Amen.

*Writer:* Rob Huggins, married for life to Nora and blessed with two children (Braden and Ana). We've been at Eastminster for over 10 years now and are eager followers of Jesus (He's waaaay out ahead and someday I hope to at least see Him on the distant horizon!)