

Living Water Fellowship

1st Sunday in Lent – 18th February 2024

COME TO JESUS

GATHERING MUSIC: VIDEO – THE LORD IS BY MY SIDE (*CityAlight*)- CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

OPENING SONG: VIDEO – GREAT ARE YOU LORD (*All Sons & Daughters*)- CCL Licence 384660

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Psalm 119:33-37

³³ Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding & I will obey your instructions;

I will put them into practice with all my heart.

³⁵ Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my delight is found.

³⁶ Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money!

³⁷ Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.

³⁸ Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you.

³⁹ Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good.

⁴⁰ I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

SONG: VIDEO – WHAT LOVE MY GOD (*CityAlight*)- CCL Licence 384660

BIBLE READING: Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

² For forty days & forty nights he fasted & became very hungry. ³ During that time the devil came & said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple.

⁶ He said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain & showed him all the kingdoms of the world & their glory. ⁹ "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down & worship me." ¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God & serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil went away, & angels came & took care of Jesus.

FAITH CHAT:

1. When do you feel most under assault by “forces” larger than you?
2. When do you feel most defended by God?

THE MESSAGE: *DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH A “W”: WORD*

OFFERING SONG: VIDEO – CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE (*CityAlight*)- CCL Licence 384660

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The Words of Institution & The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – I WANT TO KNOW YOU (*CityAlight*) CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God...

The word of Christ is your sure defense!

-- Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: VIDEO – DEATH WAS ARRESTED (*NorthPoint Inside/Out*)- CCL Licence 384660

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Matthew 4:1-11 & Psalm 119:33-37. What strikes you as you read these verses?
2. Why does the Psalmist ask God to “teach” him to follow? Can’t he or we just do what God’s word directs? How does that “teaching” occur in the life of a disciple like you? (see John 14:26 & 16:12-15 as you consider your answer)
3. Take a minute to note the active part of each psalm stanza. Discipleship is not just a “head” experience. Following Jesus demands the work of our hearts & hands as well. How does the psalmist ask God to make his lifestyle match his faith? How do you connect your faith to active faithful work? (see Ephesians 2:10 as part of your answer)
4. Note the request & commitment of v 34. According to the psalmist, how is the commitment is made possible? How is this definition of “understanding” different from how you usually use that word?
5. Does the psalmist assume the path of obedience & faithfulness is an easy one? What word in vs 35 would help you more fully grasp what David is asking? How do you think God will accomplish that task of shaping David according to God’s desires?
6. What contrast do you see in vss 36 & 37? (note the plea is made both positively & negatively) What is the sure defense against the allure of earthly delights? How do you see that defense deployed in Matthew 4?
7. Does Matthew 4:1 surprise you in any way? Why would this time in the wilderness be an intentional part of God’s redemptive plan through Jesus?
8. Matthew, Mark & Luke all note Jesus’ public ministry begins with his baptism & temptation. Why do you think that pair of important events is the official start to Jesus’ ministry? How does that shape how you see your ministry as a disciple?
9. What human need is at the heart of each temptation? How do you experience that in your life?
10. Does the devil ever tell Jesus the truth? How is the mixture of truth & falsehood especially insidious? What do you do to sift truth from falsehood? When confronted by falsehood in someone you know, what do you do?
11. Temptations often exploit an area of weakness in us or a time when we are less than at full strength. Name some times when you might be most vulnerable to temptation.
12. Temptations also sometimes attack an area in which we feel strong or invulnerable. How would the Tempter use your “strength” against you? Can you name any examples?
13. If you could share the victory of Jesus over sin & temptation with one person, who would it be?