

Lies and Distractions

Next Steps

April 21, 2024

Luke 4:1-13, Song of Solomon 2:15, Genesis 3:1-6

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord, give us courage to confront ourselves honestly, to shuck the pretense and strip to the real; to act justly with those close to us, and advocate justice for those distant from us to work to heal what is injured in our lives, and to celebrate the wondrous rest. O God, lead us in the narrow way of trust, and accompany us into the awe or ache so deep that we are forced to sort out what matters. Transform us by your grace that we will be confident of your blessing upon our lives and stirred to bless others. --Based on a prayer by Ted Loder

BREAKING THE ICE:

- If you could only eat 3 foods for the rest of your life (regardless of calories, nutrition etc.), what would you choose?
- If you could make one change to the entire world, what would it be?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

From the beginning of our story as humans, to Jesus' preparation for ministry, the devil chooses half truths and lies for temptation. Read Exodus 3:1-6.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?

Now read the temptation of Jesus; this passage occurs immediately after Jesus' baptism and leads into his next 3 years in ministry. Read Luke 4:1-13.

- Why do you believe this is Jesus' beginning to ministry?
- In each temptation, what was its appeal? Its price? How does Satan's use of scripture differ from the way Jesus uses it?
- How are the temptations similar and different?
- If the devil had three shots at you, what temptations would he use?
- What can help you resist?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord God, joy is your gift; beauty, abundance, and peace are tokens of your work in all creation. Work also in our lives, that by these signs we may see the splendor of your love and praise you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. -Psalm 65, Prayer from the Book of Common Worship

¹ Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible*, 4th Edition