

Saturday 5:30pm Service

- Matthew 4:1-11
 - Jesus consecrated Himself for 40 days and He committed Himself to be tested, and returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - We develop the depth of our faith through testing.
 - Jesus' authority and security is always found in the Word of God.
 - We have always assumed that Adam's original sin in the Garden of Eden was disobedience, but it is just the act of sin, and we need to find out the motivation behind it.
 - Sin is a matter of the heart, and the heart motivation is what commits the action. (For eg: we take Panadol to remove the symptoms of a headache but we may be ignoring the main cause of the problem)
 - Law reveals the sin and our problem. This opens the way for the grace of God.
 - When we choose to forgive others, we have chosen to give grace to others. In fact, Adam's problem was idolatry.
 - In the first commandment, God was most concerned about idolatry.
 - Idolatry: Not just worshipping statues.
 - Idolatry is about satisfying some needs in our lives (For eg: if we have a need for money, it will be manifested in a statue of the god of fortune.)
 - Idolatry is seeking security and meaning in someone or something other than Jehovah God.
 - Every temptation is based on idolatry because it is to get us to find security and meaning other than Jesus Christ.
 - Adam sought meaning in the tree of knowledge of good and evil, that the knowledge would make him like God. Similarly, we may put our faith in money or faith or position.

- Idolatry brings about a consequence and effect.
 - Consequence: Separation from God
 - Effect: Chaos, violence, aggression in society
- To stop all the problems in society, God has to restore and reconcile man to Himself through Jesus Christ so that He can deal with the violence and alienation. God is in us to bring personal reconciliation of mankind to Him!

Jesus has shown us

- A model on how to resist and to stand strong
- A model on how the devil will come after us

Temptations of Jesus

1. Physical needs

- The devil will tempt us in the area of our needs
- Matt 4:3 - The devil will wait till you are hungry to tempt you and ask you to find your satisfaction and meaning in something else other than God
- We worship whatever we find security in

2. Emotional needs

- Matt 4:5-6 - Jesus was tempted in his identity but Jesus always went back to the Word of God.

3. Psychological needs

- Matt 4:7-10 – Jesus was tempted in his need to identify with power
- Faith is based on reason. It is a reasoned trust in God.
- Doubt is a reason not to trust God.
- Before we step out in faith, we reason so that it becomes the foundation of our faith.
- God wants us to reason spiritually so that we have a strong foundation in Him!