



February 24, 2026

When We Feel Tested Matthew 4:1–11

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus goes into the wilderness. He is alone. He is hungry. He is tired. And there, in that vulnerable place, he is tempted.

The tempter whispers to him:

“If you are the Son of God...” “Turn these stones into bread.” “Throw yourself down.” “Bow down and worship me.”

In other words: Prove yourself. Take the easy way. Choose comfort. Choose power.

But Jesus does not give in. Each time, he answers with God’s Word. Each time, he chooses trust over fear.

Many of us know what it feels like to be in a kind of wilderness.

The wilderness can be a hospital room.

It can be the loss of independence.

It can be loneliness.

It can be wondering, “Why is this happening?”

There are temptations in those moments too:

To give up hope.
To become bitter.
To believe that we are forgotten.

But here is the good news:

Jesus has already walked through the wilderness.

He knows hunger.
He knows weakness.

He knows what it feels like to be tested.
And he did not fail.

That means when we feel weak, we are not alone. When our faith feels small, Jesus' faithfulness is strong enough for both of us. When we feel tempted to despair, Christ stands beside us.

The wilderness is not the end of the story. After this time of testing, Jesus begins his ministry. Light begins to shine.

And the same is true for us. Our difficult seasons do not mean God has left us. Sometimes they are places where we discover just how close God truly is.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you know what it means to be tested. When we feel weak, tired, or discouraged, remind us that you are near. Give us strength to trust you one day at a time. Thank you for walking through the wilderness so that we never walk alone. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Linda

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