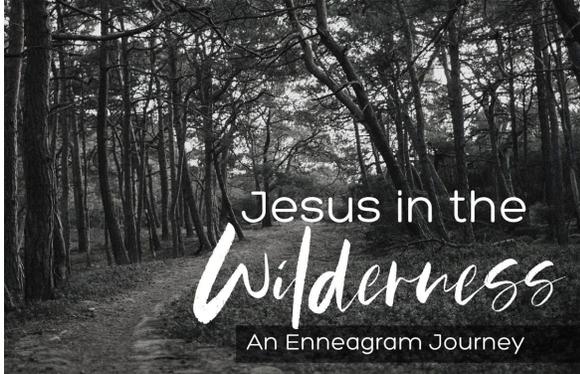


JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS: HEART

March 8, 2020

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



Context

The temptations come just after Jesus is baptized and declared by God to be “my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). The first temptation challenged Jesus to live that identity by securing enough for himself (bread to eat) and to ground his authority in the great tradition of God’s provision (manna from heaven). The temptation “solves” a fear to have enough and anxiety about being enough, and it is something all humans face in one way or another.

In the next temptation, Jesus is given the chance to “show off” and win the admiration of the people in a grand Temple spectacle. The second temptation is yet another profoundly human experience. The admiration and respect he gained (again, instantly!) might propel his message and bolster his influence.

Once again Jesus resists. He does so out of his identity as God’s beloved with a value, purpose, and worth that is not made (or broken) by adoring crowds or acclaim.

Matthew 4:5-7

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you”,

and “On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’

Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’

LENT RESOURCES

Resources, guides, devotionals, and more available at southelkhorncc.org/lent

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road • Lexington KY 40513

859.223.1433 • southelkhorncc.org

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Notice how Satan quotes from scripture. Jesus quotes scripture back. Scripture can be used to hurt and harm, and it can be used to bless and build up. In what ways have you experienced this? What do you make of St. Augustine's principle (*On Christian Doctrine*, 1.36.40) that a true interpretation of scripture is one that builds up the love of God and neighbor?
3. Jesus was tempted to be a powerful spectacle and win the admiration of many. How can living only to win the acceptance of others be a problem and hurt relationships? Is this something you experience in your life or in relationships with others?
4. After these temptations, when large adoring crowds gathered because Jesus' reputation grew, Jesus often withdrew for solitude and prayer. How might that connect to these temptations?

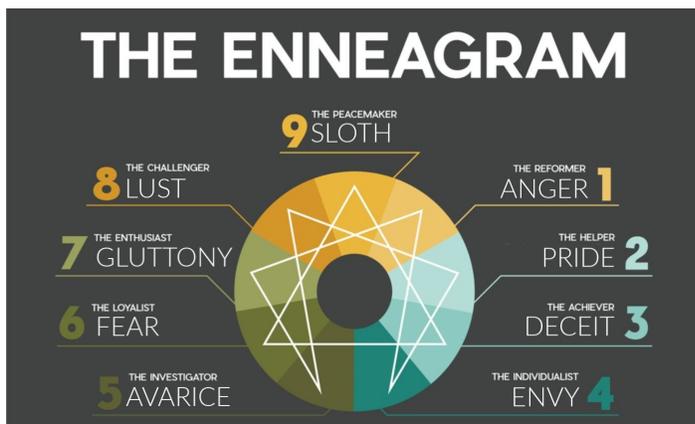
ENNEAGRAM

The Enneagram is a spiritual tool meant to capture the 9 distinct ways people show up in the world and relate to others. **Each type has great gifts that are also linked to a "root sin" (as depicted in the diagram below).** The Enneagram is further subdivided into three groupings centered on a kind of intelligence: head, heart, and gut (notice the orange, blue and green colors below). The three temptations of Jesus can each be traced to a center of intelligence and its corresponding human drive.

Temptation to make bread instantly → Head (types 5,6,7; drive for security)

Temptation to be seen publicly → Heart (types 2,3,4; drive for acceptance)

Temptation to rule immediately → Gut (types 8,9,1; drive for control)



♥ Heart

"These so-called feeling people don't have their own feelings; they have everybody else's feelings!" - Richard Rohr

[Listen Online](#)

Sermon audio available at southelkhorncc.org/sermons