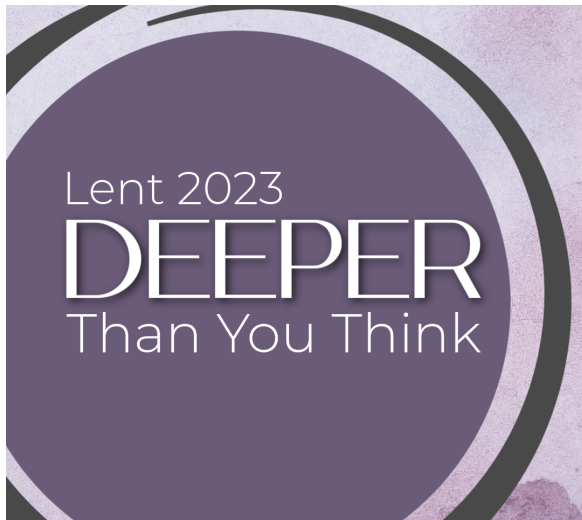


DEEPER THAN YOU THINK: Wilderness

February 26, 2023

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



MATTHEW 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' 4 But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does 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 and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 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." '

7 Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." '

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' 10 Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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. The devil lays a bet that Jesus will jump at the chance for glory, fame, and the quick fix. What are the temptations you experience that promise your life should be more special, perfect or complete than it currently is?
3. This story shows us how scripture can be used to build up or to tear down. How have you experienced scripture used as a weapon to hurt or harm?
4. This story is the basis for Lent. Reflect on and share your journey with practicing Lent, if at all. Find guides for learning about and practicing Lent at southelkhorncc.org/lent

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org