



## 2. "THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO JORDAN"

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

Lent is **A DESERT EXPERIENCE**

That **STARVES OUR APPETITES AND REVEALS OUR DEEPEST HUNGER**

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1*

### **I. Matthew 4:1**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

The Desert reveals our hunger for **SAFETY**

And directs us to **RISK SO THAT WE CAN GROW**

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12-13*

### **II. Matthew 4:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The Desert reveals our hunger for **COMFORT**

And directs us to **TRUST GOD'S GOODNESS IN THE MIDST**

## **OF PAIN AND NEED**

*<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us....<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:18, 28*

### **III. Matthew 4:5-7**

**<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

**The Desert reveals our hunger for RIGHTNESS**

**And directs us to NOT TO MISUSE GOD’S WORD OR HIS AUTHORITY FOR OUR AGENDA**

*You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40*

### **IV. Matthew 4:8-11**

**<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.**

**The Desert reveals our hunger for RECOGNITION**

**And directs us to TRUST GOD’S TIMING**

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:7-10*