

Episode 48

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.” - Luke 4:1-2

How long will it take you to learn to trust God?

Abraham waited 25 years for God to provide the promised heir. Joseph waited 13 years from being sold by his brothers for his promotion. Moses waited 40 years in Midian for God to come and protect His people in Egypt. Jesus had waited 30 years to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom.

In all of these years of apparent delay there must have been many temptations along the way, but for Jesus these are intensified as the Spirit led Him into a 40 day period of being tempted by the devil. The enemy was trying to derail God's plans before they could really get going, and he will do the same for you, using temptation to derail God's plans for your life.

As much as we would love to avoid the topic of temptation, the challenge today is to learn how to overcome temptation. We all have our areas of vulnerability, whether it is substances, sexuality, success or any other areas, but underneath them all is one question:

Is God trustworthy?

The devil's plans have not changed since the garden of Eden, where he sowed seeds of doubt by asking “did God really say?” Trying the same tricks on Jesus that caused Adam & Eve and many others to stumble. Jesus, is however, equipped with His God given identity, His knowledge of the Word and being empowered by the Spirit. Jesus has all He needs to overcome everything thrown at Him.

Maybe you find yourself in a specifically intense period of testing at the moment, and this may not be the silver bullet you are looking for to never be tempted again, but Jesus' example gives us a pattern to follow. To know that in the apparent delays you can trust your heavenly Father, who has revealed Himself to us in His Word and empowers us by His Spirit.

“No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit; He'll always be there to help you come through it.”

- 1 Cor 10:13 (The Message)

ONE33