

Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday, November 15, 2020
Test or Trust
Matthew 4: 5-7

This week's sermon looked at the account of Jesus' second temptation. Satan attempted stir up pride in Jesus. He was attacking one of the typical areas of human vulnerability mentioned in I John 2:16. John calls it the "boastful pride of life" (NASB). Satan tried to bait Jesus into testing the Word of God by saying, "If you are the Son of God, prove it. Throw yourself down and God will protect you" (paraphrase). Jesus saw through the manipulation and responded with a portion of Scripture which says that we are not to put God to the test.

1. Explain what it means to test God and why it is inappropriate.
2. What is it about God that you are testing?
3. How does testing compare to trusting?

There are potentially two kinds of tests, a test of a promise of God, and a test of a warning. Both are tests of his Word, and ultimately, of his character.

4. Which kind of test was Satan trying to get Jesus to engage in?
5. What kind of test was he trying to get Eve to engage in?
6. Which kind of test are we most often tempted to engage in?
7. Why does pride make us particularly vulnerable to manipulation? Hint: Who are you depending upon when you are prideful?
8. Why does giving ourselves credit for our gifts and abilities stir up a form of sinful pride?
9. What are we leaving out of the equation? Who is ultimately the source of our gifts and abilities?
10. Is there a difference between being prideful and being thankful for our gifts and abilities? How do the two differ in focus?
11. We sometimes struggle with pride in our roles in life (socially, economically, spiritually). We see ourselves as better than others. Why is that sin?
12. Why is pride in our "righteousness" potentially deadly? Why is humility a prerequisite to understanding the Gospel?
13. When we are filled up with pride who are we focused upon? Who does our focus need to shift to for us to be grateful rather than prideful? How can we help one another to make that shift?