



SERMON DISCUSSION

Shadow Mission

Quotable Moments:

- Every temptation is an opportunity to trust God to meet your needs.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-7

Key Things You Heard:

- There's always more at stake than what we think.
- Our ability to withstand temptation is impacted by our confidence in the person making the promise.
- Jesus' second temptation: The temptation to presume on God to bless our plans.
- Your shadow-mission is your God-given mission hijacked by your ego and your wounds.
- The people most disappointed with God are the ones who've never fully surrendered to Him.
- Cooperate with God. Don't try to manipulate Him.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for giving me your mission to live out. I confess that so often I get off course by allowing myself to be hijacked by my ego and my wounds. I sin by trying to manipulate you or even being angry with you when things don't go my way. Help me to surrender to your plan, and to cooperate with you. Thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit to guide my steps. I want to follow you fully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Moving Forward:

- Journal about how your ego and wounds have caused you to try to manipulate God?
- Memorize Matthew 4:7
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend. Go to rivertown.cc or the RCC App.

Questions for Group Discussion:

First Minutes: When you hear the word "temptation", what are the first three images or words that come to mind?

- Discuss the definition of shadow mission.
- Read Matthew 4:5-7. Why was the setting of this temptation important? How would it appeal to Jesus' ego?
- Why do you think Satan used Scripture in this temptation? Have you ever used Scripture to justify your action or reaction? How did that work out for you?
- Paul said that the way to identify if we are living in our shadow mission is to 1) Listen to your prayers. 2) Look at your reactions to negative circumstances. 3) Pay attention to your attitude toward sin.
 - Which of these is most helpful to you?
- Where do you struggle to cooperate with God? What area of your life do you need to surrender to Him? What difference might it make if you did?
- How do Godly relationships (Providential Relationships) help us to identify we are living in our shadow mission? How might this group help each other in this area?