

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

March 9, 2025

LEADER: Gracious God, like Jesus in the wilderness, we are often tempted to satisfy our appetite and hunger with that which will not nourish. We fool ourselves into thinking that rocks like lust, greed, and revenge might be transformed into the soft bread of love, work ethic, and justice if we simply close our eyes and imagine, but they turn to dust in our mouths just the same.

ALL: Forgive us, oh Lord, for satisfying our appetite with spiritual food that does not nourish.

LEADER: And again, like Jesus in the wilderness, we are tempted to satisfy our desire for approval with grand and theatrical examples of our talents and abilities. Rather than earning approval by proving the fruit of our character, we attempt to earn the praise of our peers with the size of our pocketbooks and the quality of our clothing.

ALL: Forgive us, oh Lord, for garnering approval by superficial and self-centering means. Restore us and make us whole again in Christ. Amen.

LEADER: And like Jesus in the wilderness, we are also tempted to satisfy our desire for ambition with power that corrupts rather than power that serves. We fall prey to the lie that we can safely fulfill this desire by bowing down to false gods, but the power they offer comes at a deadly cost.

ALL: Forgive us, oh Lord, for directing our ambition toward unholy outlets.

PREPARING THE SOIL OF THE SOUL Matthew 4.1-11

Right after Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness to further prepare him for his earthly ministry. During his time in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by the devil. The temptations of Jesus represent three areas in which we are often tempted.

A PPETITE v3

A PPROVAL v6

A MBITION v8-9

God allows TESTS so we can see WHAT WE ARE MADE OF.

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1.6-7

We are becoming transformed by Jesus and as we go through this Lenten wilderness may we, like Jesus...

1. Prioritize spiritual GROWTH over PHYSICAL COMFORT.
2. Resist the urge to PROVE OURSELF to others.
3. Reject SHORTCUTS that compromise our values or bypass God's timing.

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?