



Punched – A Temptation
Sermon Discussion Questions – September 11th 2022

Scripture Passages:

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV84) ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Luke 4:1–13 (NIV84) Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV84) ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Warm Up:

Pastor Tom opened up his sermon with the results of a study done by the Vatican on temptation. Just for fun, what are some of the most interesting or surprising studies you have heard about?

Discussion:

1. This week's sermon was about temptation. How would you define temptation? What stories in the Bible could you recall that involve temptation?
2. Read Luke 4:1-2. Pastor Tom suggests that we can be filled with the Spirit, led by the Spirit, faithful to the Spirit, and still be vulnerable to temptation. What encouragement can be found in that truth? What encouragement do you find in the reality that temptation and faith can live together in your life? How does that shift your response to temptation?
3. Read Hebrews 4:15. How might the truth of this impact the way you relate to Jesus during a temptation? Read this verse again slowly. Which words or phrases from this verse do you find most encouraging and why?
4. Pastor Tom points out that temptation is not evil but raises the possibility for evil. How does this statement impact the way you view temptation? How does knowing Jesus was tempted effect the way you think about and respond to temptations in your own life?
5. Read Luke 4:1-13. How does Jesus respond to temptation that comes his way? What can we learn about temptation from these verses? What might we learn from Jesus' example here?
6. Read Ephesians 6:12. How might understanding this verse impact the way you respond to temptations in your own life?
7. In his message, Pastor Tom shared these 3 components of the plan Jesus gives us for facing temptation:
 - You fight spiritual battles with spiritual weapons.
 - Know your battlefields.
 - Live boldly with eyes wide open.

As you read through this list, which of these components do you find most difficult and why? Which of these steps do you find most helpful? What is one practical way that you could live out that step this week?

8. Toward the end of his message Pastor Tom shared this quote from C.S. Lewis:
“Our desires are not too strong, but too weak; we are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us . . . We are far too easily pleased.”
What do you think C.S. Lewis is saying about humanity and temptation here? How might understanding what God offers us impact the way we see and respond to temptations as they arise?

Next Steps:

Read Hebrews 4:15.

What is one area where you have found yourself tempted lately? What step might you take to guard yourself against this temptation?

Take some time to pair up with someone in your group and talk about your area of temptation and to pray with and for one another.