**LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**July 7th, 2019**

**Matthew 4:1-4**

**RECAP:** Last week we finished up this chapter on the nature of Christ in baptism, and John the Baptist. We also are called to be an obedient people. Christ models that in His baptism, and we should strive for the same.

**THESIS:** There is no sin, evil, or failure too great that Christ will not sympathize with us. Christ forgives us, not just because He paid the price for our sins, but He knows what it’s like to be tempted. Christ is not just our King and Lord, He is our Priest, and our Friend. **Heb. 2:10-16, 4:15-16.**

**EXEGESIS:**

**v.1; “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.****”**

* See the verb, **“led.”** Christ was deliberately led by the Holy Spirit to experience this temptation. It was always in the plan of God that Christ be tempted.
	+ We know God does not tempt (**James 1:13**), but as we looked at previously with Herod, God absolutely uses evil, suffering, and temptation to bring about His will.
* “**diabolos,**” which means, “slanderer, accuser, or prosecutor.” We know this is the only weapon Satan has; he is the accuser who still stand before God on the day of judgment and accuse humanity for it’s crimes.
* Before we look at the temptations individually, we need to realize; Satan hits all the major sins here. For a brief reminder of sin, let’s look at **1st John 2:15-16**;

**v. 2-4; “And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’**

* Fasting is a discipline that we see the OT and the NT church. We need to take up fasting on occasion today, as it is still a very real and viable spiritual discipline. **Ps. 35:13, Neh 1:4, Acts 13:2-3, Acts 14:23.**
* Christ refuses to break His commitment of devotion to God and His will. He explains in essence not just the reason for His fast, but for fasting in general with a quote from **Deut. 8:3.**

**APPLICATION:**

* What should we derive from this text?
	+ **Firstly**; we can derive that we should take comfort from the fact that Christ knows what hunger is. He’s experienced it. He’s been there.
	+ **Secondly**; When we’re confronted with sinful hedonistic desires, pray to the God who has been there. He has the power to save you, and He understands what it’s like.
		- So we should pray to Him for that reason! He loves us enough to experience the suffering we know as temptation, and then live as our Mediator because of it.
		- And as Christ shows us here: In that temptation, trust God to provide for your needs. He made you, He knows what you need. It won’t be your power that preserves you.