

## Application Guide: “The Temptation of Christ”

**Aug 1, 2004:** Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park, delivered a message on Matthew 3:17-4:11, Part 7 in his series on Matthew. Kimber spent time explaining the temptations that Christ endured, revealing that his time in the Wilderness serves to reveal him as the “2<sup>nd</sup> Israel” as well as the “2<sup>nd</sup> Adam”. In way of application, Kimber emphasized that we have a mediator who has been tempted just as we are, and we can look to him as we struggle through the temptations of life.

1. **Leaders** – Again, feel free to comment on the Spiritual Discipline that was discussed during the music time. This week, the topic of Stewardship was brought up. Is this an issue that the people in your Flock Group need to discuss?
  - a. What does the Bible say about Stewardship? What parts of life involve the discipline of Stewardship? (Mt. 25:14-30; Lk. 12:35-48)
  - b. What does the Bible say about money? What does your checkbook reveal about what is important to you? (1 Chron 29:1-9; Mt. 6:1-4; 1 Tim. 6:3-10; Prov 15:27; James 5:1-6)
2. Kimber noted that God said of Jesus, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased” (3:17). The Father said this of Christ before he even spent one day in ministry. What does this say about the value of childhood? Carpentry? Your job?
  - a. What does it take for the Father to be well pleased with you?
  - b. How ought this to change your view of work this week?
3. “God tests a man before he uses them,” noted Kimber. What value does temptation, struggle, and trial have in the life of the believer? (Rom 5:4-5; Heb 12:4-11; 2 Cor 12:7-10).
  - a. Why do Christians undergo suffering? Are these reasons good or bad?
  - b. What trials and temptations are you undergoing right now that require prayer, accountability, & wisdom from other believers? What are you doing to combat these temptations? (this may be a good time to break up in guys and girls groups)
4. By way of application, Kimber called us to “Look to Jesus” during temptation.
  - a. What encouragement does the story of Christ’s temptation give to your life today? How do we “look to Jesus?”
  - b. What does it mean that Jesus used the same spiritual measures that we have in order to combat temptation? Do you believe this? (cf. 2 Peter 1:3)
5. Kimber also noted that “the devil would love to get you to use your gifts for yourself rather than for God’s glory and purposes.” How is Satan currently tempting you in this way?
  - a. Are you only willing to use your gifts for money or recognition?
  - b. Are you involved in ministry & serving the Church? How much? Just enough to get by or do you wholeheartedly desire to serve Christ?
6. Spend time in prayer that your group will not be deceived by Satan’s craftiness and cunning means of temptation this week.