

THE ADVERSARY

Matthew 3:13-4:11

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. WHO OUR ENEMY IS
2. HOW OUR ENEMY OPERATES
 - Satan's work is from the inside out
 - Satan's work is subtle
 - Satan's work is gradual
3. HOW OUR ENEMY CAN BE DEFEATED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness came right after his baptism and right at the beginning of his earthly ministry. One of the telltale signs that you are getting closer to God is that you find yourself going through a wilderness experience. Have you ever experienced a "wilderness" in your spiritual journey? What was it like?
3. This week's message was all about our adversary. What are some reasons you find it hard to believe in the existence of Satan? What evidence would lead you to believe he is real? What are some ways the Christian view of evil differs from that of other worldviews?
4. Satan's work is from the **inside out**- he plays off of desires that already exist within us. His work is **subtle** – often the temptations are not inherently bad, they are good things that we idolize. And his work is **gradual**- it starts small and over time leads us to become people we swore we'd never be and do things we swore we'd never do. Knowing this is how our enemy works, how should we respond? What implications are there for us as we fight against this enemy?
5. Jesus responded to his temptation with scripture. If Jesus didn't attempt to handle being human without scripture then we absolutely shouldn't try to. What is your plan to have regular contact with scripture?
6. In order to have victory over our enemy we need the love of God. To what degree do you know that God loves you? When do you feel loved by God? When do you not feel loved by God?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Because of Jesus we can be called the beloved sons and daughters of God.