



The Gospel According To Matthew

“The kingdom of the heavens is at hand.”
-Matthew 4:17

August 19, 2007
Group Reflection Questions

1. How do you prepare for a big project?
How do you recover?
2. What do noise and busyness distract us from?
3. Where do the passages come from that Jesus quotes to the devil?
4. How do we overcome temptation in our lives?
5. Do you have a desert place in your life?

Roots and Wings
Matthew 4:1-11

After his baptism Jesus prepares for his ministry in a strange way. He doesn't do a fundraising tour, he doesn't find a well-known teacher, he doesn't even hang around John the Baptist. Instead, he goes away. Jesus goes to the desert. In the desert he fasts for 40 days and nights. Now, what kind of preparation is that? How is being hungry and lonely preparation?

We live in a world filled with noise and food. We could not imagine being denied such fundamental need in our day. Unlike most of us, Jesus found strength in the desert. In the desert Jesus came to know himself better, he came to know God much better and he learned about the resources that God has for us that the world can't see. In this hungry wilderness he learned that one can survive on the word of God—the word of the creator.

I know I avoid quiet moments in my life because in those moments I have to deal with my own struggles and temptations. Without a quiet desert place in our lives, we will never find victory over our own “tempters.”

