

The King's Holiness

Mark 1:12–13; Matthew 4:1–11

¹² *The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.* ¹³ *And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.* (Mark 1:12–13 ESV)

Mark's wording is especially strong. Mark says the Spirit *"drove him out."* Jesus is not wandering into the wilderness when the tempter suddenly shows up. Rather, the Holy Spirit purposefully sends him there for a direct confrontation with Satan. That means every detail surrounding this encounter is under the sovereign direction of God.

This is an important reality because there will be times when obedience to God takes us into difficult places, among difficult people, and places of trials and troubles. Sometimes obedience brings us into difficulties and hardships. In such times, we trust God, who is sovereign, full of grace and truth, and love for each of us. We grow more like Jesus in such times.

Satan tempts us to satisfy legitimate desires outside the will of God. (Matthew 4:2–4)

Jesus had fasted for forty days. He is fully God, but he is also fully man, experiencing weakness, exhaustion, and hunger. Satan approached Jesus, saying: *"If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."* The temptation was for Jesus to satisfy a legitimate desire outside the will of his Father. However, Jesus would not allow his physical hunger to take precedence over obedience to his Father.

The devil frequently takes a legitimate desire and tempts us to satisfy it in an illegitimate way. Sometimes temptation looks like bread.

We need to ask more than, "Is there anything wrong with this?" The better question is, "Is this the will of God?"

Satan tempts us to use God for our purposes rather than live for his glory. (Matthew 4:5–7)

With this temptation, Satan quotes Scripture, parts of Psalm 91. He points out God's promise to protect him, and he challenges him to make the Father prove it. However, doing so would not be faith; it would be presumption. Faith submits to God. Presumption expects God to submit to us.

Jesus would not manipulate the Father into performing a miracle for his own benefit or recognition.

This temptation remains very real for us because we can easily attach God's name to our own desires. But the question is not what I presuppose God to think or what I want him to do; it is, "What has he said in the Bible?"

This is an important reality to understand because sometimes a quick internet search can lead you to a "cherry-picked" verse that seems to support what you want. The question must be, "Am I submitting myself to what God has actually said?"

Biblical faith does not try to force God's hand. Biblical faith trusts God enough to obey him even when he does not do what we hoped he would do. In other words, we do not use God to build the life we want; we give our lives in submission to God for his glory.

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:20–21 ESV)

Ask yourself:

- Am I really trusting God, or am I trying to use God to get what I want?
- Am I submitting my plans, desires, and future to him, or am I asking him to bless what I have already decided?
- In faith, our prayer should be: "Father, I trust you. My life belongs to you. Be glorified in me."

Satan tempts us to take shortcuts around the plan of God. (Matthew 4:8–10)

Daniel had prophesied that one like a son of man would receive *dominion, glory, and a kingdom, and that all peoples, nations, and languages would serve him. And the kingdom and rule* he described rightfully belong to Jesus. But the Father's path to the crown goes through the cross. In the wilderness, Satan offers another way to the coronation of his kingdom. He is offering Jesus the crown without the cross, tempting him to accomplish the right end by the wrong means.

The Lord would not take the kingdom by bowing to Satan. Instead, he would receive the kingdom through perfect obedience and service to the Father, even obedience unto death.

God's way is not always the easiest or quickest way. It may involve waiting, and it often requires sacrifice and suffering. But God's way is the right way. Worshiping God means trusting his plan enough to follow him at any cost.

Jesus is more than our example in temptation; he is our victorious King and Savior.

Matthew is not merely showing us how to resist Satan. He is showing us who Jesus is.

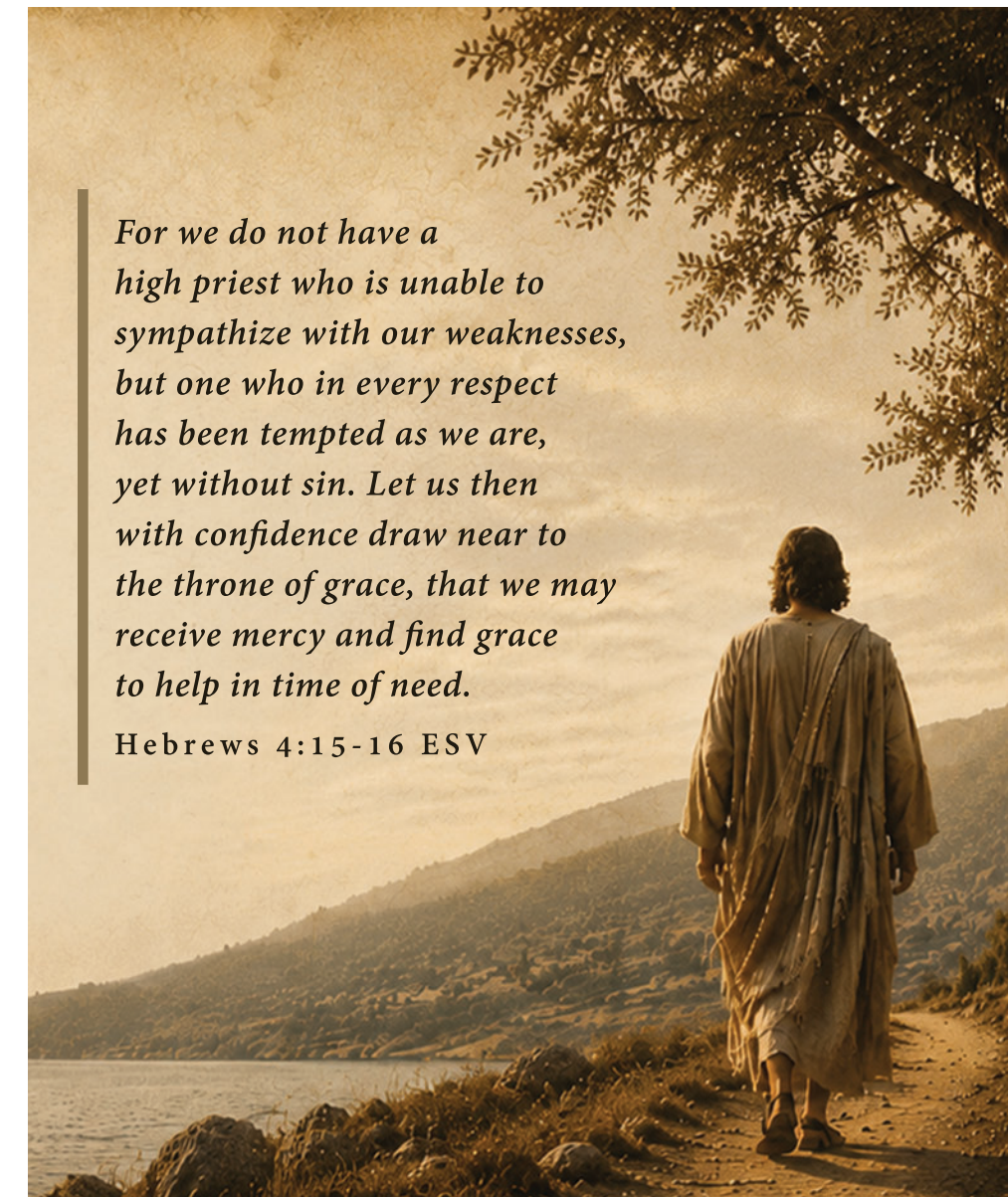
Our salvation does not rest upon the strength of our obedience, but upon the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the faithful Son, the obedient King, and the spotless Lamb of God who can go to the cross and bear the sins of people who have not been faithful. Jesus is far more than our example to resist temptation; he is our perfectly righteous Savior.



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, August 16, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



*For we do not have a
high priest who is unable to
sympathize with our weaknesses,
but one who in every respect
has been tempted as we are,
yet without sin. Let us then
with confidence draw near to
the throne of grace, that we may
receive mercy and find grace
to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:15–16 ESV

 CONNECT *people to Christ
and His church*

 GriefShare®

MONDAYS
Beginning August 31
10 AM | Conference Center

GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. **Cost: \$10 for workbook**

Facilitated by: Amelia Day, Bob Sanford, Sue Chappell, Jim & Deb Rhodes

**WEDNESDAY
BREAKOUTS**

**FALL Breakout Groups
begin Wednesday,
SEPTEMBER 9 at 6:30 PM**

Breakout groups are intentional topical studies that meet for a short season on Wednesday nights. These groups help equip disciples in various areas so that they might better glorify God in every area of their lives.

*The Well
at Brunson Farms*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 from 2:00 until 6:30 PM
BRUNSON FARMS
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table, and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical tools to grow in and live out their faith.

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

COST: \$25 • Optional Sweatshirt: \$20

 GROW *them as disciples
and equip them to*

**WHAT'S HAPPENING
THIS WEEK!**

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room
6:30 pm - The Collective - Kids' Theater

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

6:00 pm - Pickleball - Gym

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Sweet and Sticky Pork, Fried Rice, Lo Mein, Egg Rolls & Dessert or Salad with a Protein; Kids: Corn Dogs & Chips)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

AUGUST 20-25

Costa Rica Mission Trip - Hope Ministries

 **life
group**
*Life together for the
Kingdom of God*

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE gift!**

**2026 DAILY
BIBLE READING**

August 16 - Luke 12:1-34
August 17 - Luke 12:35-59
August 18 - Luke 13
August 19 - Luke 14

August 20 - Luke 15
August 21 - Luke 16
August 22 - Luke 17

 SERVE *through missions,
ministry and worship*

**COSTA RICA
MISSION TEAM AUGUST 20-25**

Pray for the Costa Rica communities of San Francisco de Dos Ríos and Alajuelita that the Lord would bring families to hear the hope of the gospel as presented through the women's and family conferences being hosted during their country's Mother's Day Weekend.

Pray for our mission partners, Hope Ministries, as they seek to reinforce the need for a gospel-centered way of life for families in their community.

Pray for our team as they provide teaching life skills such as sewing, first aid/cpr, and provide childcare during the conferences being held over the weekend.



Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

- Mary Morris & family in the loss of Rob
- Laura Hoge - Encompass Rehab
- Hannah Jenkins & newborn twin boys - Grandview