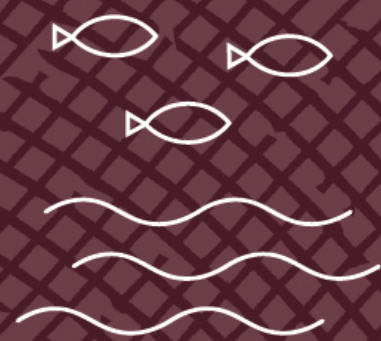


MATTHEW









But what if weakness is the way of growth? What if God's strength is made perfect in weakness?

I. Typology of the Wilderness

The Wilderness as a Place of Encounter





“When we fast, we throw ourselves on the mercy of God...The freedom we experience in fasting comes from stepping outside human wisdom and human strength.”

Lynne M. Baab,
Fasting: Spiritual Freedom Beyond Our Appetites

II. The Temptation of *Jesus*

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

1 Peter 5:8

“Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat.”

Luke 22:31

So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world... the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:9-11

“If you are the Son of God...”

“Am I someone who is deeply loved and chosen by God? Can I trust him? Or do I need to turn to other sources of power, provision, and purpose?”

Whether we realize it or not, our being is grounded in God's love...Love is our identity and our calling...In order for our knowing of God's love to be truly transformational, it must become the basis of our identity.

David Benner

“If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in the land of Egypt...
Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole
assembly die of hunger!”

Exodus 16:2-3

“Why did you ever bring us up from Egypt to kill us and our children
and our livestock with
thirst? ”

Exodus 17:3

What is God's purpose in temptation? To establish your identity as his chosen and beloved.

“Solitude is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter
—the struggle against the compulsions of the false self, and the
encounter with the loving God who offers himself as the substance
of the new self...”

Henri Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart*

Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world. The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

I Peter 5:8-10

III. What is the invitation of the wilderness?

- A. Be willing to be led to the wilderness
- B. Lean into weakness
- C. Trust God's purposes
- D. Look for God's provision

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

1 Peter 5:10