

### **Marinating in God's Word: Luke 4:1-14a**

We are still in the season of Lent, but it seems that everything else about the season has changed. So we are setting aside our planned focus for Lent and going to a passage that helps us figure out where we are and where we're going.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- What has changed in your day to day experience in the last three weeks? How is this like the barren wilderness in which Jesus spent those 40 days?
- Jesus was blessed through both spiritual "feasting" (the richness of his baptism, the Spirit coming, and the Father's affirmation in 3:21-22) and "fasting" (these 40 days in the wilderness). When have you grown in times past through "feasting"? Through "fasting"? What do each tell you about where you are now?
- In English we mean quite different things by "tempt" and "test." But there is only one word in the Greek original here to cover both. What do we mean by "tempt" and "test"? Where do you see either in this story? What the devil means for ill, to pull us down through tempting, God means for good, to build us up through testing. How can this be?
- It looks like our Coronavirus wilderness could be as long or longer than Jesus' 40 day sojourn. What have you learned so far? What are you realizing from this story that will help you in the days to come?
- We're not the only ones in this wilderness – so, too, are unbelievers. What do we have that they lack? How might we offer witness in this season?