

The Gospel of Mark – Part 4 | Jesus is Tempted (1 of 2) | 5/19/19

- Introduction
 - This lesson covers the temptation of Jesus, which took place immediately after He was baptized.
 - This event is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Mark provides the shortest account so we will lean on Luke and Matthew to fill in the details.
 - We might think it strange that Jesus would allow Himself to be tempted, but we see that it had a divine purpose.
- Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil | Mark 1:12-13, Matthew 4:1-11
 - **Read Mark 1:12-13**
 - **Read Matthew 4:1-11**
 - Immediately following the baptism of Jesus, we have an interesting event that took place, where Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 - **On the surface, this may seem odd. Why would Jesus Christ the Son of God ever be in a position to be tempted by Satan?**
 - However, with God, nothing is by chance. This temptation served a divine and Holy purpose.
 - What was the overall purpose for Jesus to allow Himself to be tempted by Satan?
 - Jesus identifies Himself with sinners so that He could make an atonement for our sins.
 - Even though Jesus had never sinned the entire 30 years of His earthly life, He had just been baptized, which was a baptism of repentance.
 - He had done this to identify Himself with the sinners' whose sins He would soon be taking to the cross.
 - Now Jesus is intentionally going into the wilderness and is allowing Himself to be tempted by Satan.
 - **We can again ask the "why" question here. Why would Jesus allow Himself to be tempted? What was the purpose?**
 - Just as there was a purpose with His baptism, there is a purpose with allowing Satan to tempt Him.
 - Like the baptism, Jesus did this to identify Himself with the sinners. This was necessary so that He could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.
 - **It was necessary for Jesus to become like us, to experience the temptations, to experience the emotions to be the example of what it looks like to live a perfect life in obedience to the law.**
 - Hebrews 2:17
 - “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**”
 - **Jesus would be tempted, but He would never sin. This made Him worthy to be our atoning sacrifice.**
 - Jesus was tempted by all the desires of the world.
 - 1 John 2:16
 - “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”
 - Flesh – tempted him with food.
 - Eyes – tempted with pride, power, and control.

- Life – tempted with testing God’s ability to save Him from harm.
 - **Jesus showed us the tactics that Satan will use against us and more importantly, how we can overcome them when we are tempted.**
 - **Jesus’s life was an example to us, on how it is we are supposed to live.**
 - The temptations that Jesus experience are not unlike our own. By having His example, we see that tactics that Satan will use against us and how we can overcome them.
 - Hebrews 4:14-16
 - “Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 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.**”
 - **Why do you think God chose to reveal these events to us in Scripture? What can we learn from Jesus’s example?**
- Truths to consider
 - Jesus was led willingly by the Spirit in the wilderness to be tempted. Satan did not force him.
 - Satan did not force or drag Jesus out in the wilderness. It was the Holy Spirit that led Him there.
 - Again, this is proof that this was part of God's plan, and He went there willingly and **ALLOWED** Satan to tempt Him.
 - This reminds us of the cross, where Jesus freely gave up His Spirit. It was NOT taken from Him.
 - Jesus was tempted, but he did not sin.
 - It is not a sin to be tempted. It is only a sin if you give in to the temptation.
 - Satan has power in the world.
 - In verse 8, Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms and their glory and said that he could give them to him.
 - Satan is alive and well and has power here. In the Scriptures, he is called the "ruler of this world."
 - John 12:31
 - “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”
 - Jesus’s fasted for 40 days in which he had nothing to eat.
 - Jesus took a great time of 40 days to fast in which he did not eat.
 - This is quite impressive for anyone to go 40 days of continuous prayer and to not eat.
 - **One might think well this was easy for Him because He was Jesus the Son of God. While He is divine, He was also fully man.**
 - Jesus felt every bit of the pain and misery that one feels when they go without food, and when their body hungers for nourishment.
 - Jesus having fasted for 40 days was no coincidence.
 - The use of 40 is prominent in several places in Scripture
 - There was the rain during the flood that lasted for 40 days.
 - The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years.
 - Much of Jesus’s quotation of Scripture reflected the experiences of the Israelites in the wilderness.
 - Moses went to Mount Sini for 40 days.

- This time held significance for God and giving the Scripture that He used against Satan He certainly would have had the Israelites in mind. They wondered and were tempted for 40 years.
- **Satan's tactics for temptation**
 - While Satan has an endless playbook for ways to tempt us, there are a few that we see he used specifically against Jesus.
 - **Satan will work very hard to attack us when we are at our weakest point.**
 - Jesus showed us the perfect example of how Satan will attack us when we are at our weakest moments.
 - We see that after the 40 days, Satan tempted Jesus with food.
 - **This at first, seems odd. How is it that eating food could be a temptation?**
 - **It wasn't that food was bad, but it was at that moment against the will of God.**
 - **Satan sought to attack the physical needs that Jesus would have experienced in order to get Him to disobey the Father.**
 - Matthew 4:2-3
 - "And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
 - Jesus while being divine, He was also fully human. His body desired and needed food after going without for 40 days.
 - **It was the will of the Father for Jesus to fast these 40 days and to be tempted.**
 - **Jesus being perfect and without sin, humbled Himself to perfect obedient to the Father.**
 - Philippians 2:6-8
 - "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
 - **If Jesus would have turned the rocks into food to fulfill the desires of the flesh, He would have sinned against God.**
 - **But Jesus being without sin was submissive to the Father and was obedient.**
 - Jesus then enforced this with Scripture.
 - Matthew 4:4
 - "But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
 - Job 23:12
 - "I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food."
 - To obey God is more important than the desires of the flesh.
 - **This experience that Jesus had demonstrates to us how Satan will also attack us.**
 - When we are at our weakest and most vulnerable is when he will tempt us.
 - Satan will do His best to get us to disobey God and will use the desires of the flesh to do this.
 - **Should we expect to be tempted when we are in a vulnerable position because of life circumstances or if we are spiritually weak? What might this look like?**
 - **How can we protect ourselves during our weakest point? What example did Jesus demonstrate to us?**

- **–Obedience to the Word of the Father**
- **Satan will use our desires to tempt us into sin.**
 - It seems to be a common perspective for people to blame Satan as being the cause of their sins. That it's not "my fault," Satan tempted me.
 - This was, of course, the immediate response of Eve in the garden when she sinned, she pinned it on the snake — followed promptly by Adam who blamed Eve.
 - **How Satan chooses to tempt us, is based on our sinful desires.**
 - James 1:14-15
 - "But each person is tempted when he is **lured and enticed by his own desire**. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."
 - **The power of the temptation lies within our "sinful desire."**
 - The power isn't necessarily in the temptation, but the fact that we have a sinful desire that draws us.
 - **We are all born with a sinful nature that has "desires," that when they are met with temptation will lead us to sin.**
 - This desire will always be to satisfy the flesh in some way.
 - **This is why we are not susceptible to the same temptations.**
 - We do not all have the same sinful desires so some temptations will entice us while others will not.
 - Satan **doesn't tempt** you with things that you are **not susceptible** to.
 - This is why each of us has a different sin that tends to be our weakness.
 - **Satan knows our sinful desires and uses them against us.**
 - **He creates a custom targeted campaign against every single one of us that targets our sinful desires explicitly.**
 - **This is a powerful weapon of his because a "desire" may feel like something good.**
 - We all have desires with many of them being good and also bad.
 - Sometimes there are those who have a desire for something that isn't good and is a sin in the eyes of God.
 - **Just because we have a desire for something in our heart doesn't mean its naturally good, it can very well be a sinful desire from our sinful nature.**
 - **It is essential to know and identify our sinful desires.**
 - One way that we can help combat this tactic of Satan is to get out in front of it by identifying our sinful desires.
 - If we identify what they are, we can strive to guard ourselves and keep us away from situations where we might be tempted to sin.
 - However, only through Christ, can we resist these temptations.
 - **Do Christians frequently blame their sin on Satan or that He "made" them do it?**
 - **Have you ever justified your sin because of the influence of your sinful desires?**
 - **With every temptation that we receive, Christ provides a way out.**
 - **He has promised never to allow us to be tempted more than we can handle and that He will provide us a way of escape.**
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13

- "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also **provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**
- This escape is very comforting, knowing that no matter how bad our situation is that He will provide a way of escape.
- The key is that we must LOOK for it.
- If all we look at is the temptation and the subsequent sin, then we will be blind to the way out that He has provided for us.
- **Have you experienced the paths of escape during a time you were under great temptation?**
- **If you reflect on previous temptations where you failed to resist, do you recall seeing the "way out" but chose to ignore it?**