

Matthew 4: Jesus Faces The Devil

Introduction:

Today we are continuing our series on “The Life of Jesus” with the account of Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4. If we are reading carefully the temptation of Jesus is kind of jarring. We go from this mountain top moment in Matthew 3 when Jesus is baptized and as he comes out of the water the voice of God the Father comes from heaven and He says’ this is my Son in whom I am well pleased and you have the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus in the form of a dove.

As we go through this passage we are going to be asking a few questions how was Jesus tempted, how did he overcome temptation and the Devil, and what does this passage say about how we can combat the Devil.

Pray:

Read the Passage: Matthew 4:1-2

Take Notice:

- “He was hungry”
 - Jesus submitted himself to the limitations of humanity and operated out of his humanity

Ask the Questions:

- Why did the Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness?
- Sometimes we define our closeness to God by ease or a sense of Peace
 - “I knew I was in the will of God because I had this sense of overwhelming peace
 - “Lead by the Spirit”
 - “Mark: driven by the Spirit”
 - Luke: 40 days of temptation
 - Encouraging: suffering and temptation does not equal absence
 - 1100s Beguines
 - An intimate relationship with God or a person is defined by a deep love for the other even when the benefits of being in that relationship aren’t there.
 - Sometimes God will lead us into wilderness moments to refine our love

Paint the Picture:

- We go from the high of Jesus’ baptism to all of a sudden Jesus is in the wilderness for 40 days fasting and being tempted

Transition:

As we continue in this passage Matthew will give an account of three of the temptations Jesus faced... We will see how Jesus resisted those temptations and beat back the devil.

Read the Passage: Matthew 4:3-4

Take Notice:

- If you are the Son of God
 - Pharisees

Ask the Questions:

- What did Satan tempt Jesus with?
 - Satisfying the desires of the flesh
 - To put his hunger and his physical urges above the commitment he made to the fast and to use His divinity to satisfy his humanity
 - Most common use of “temptation”
 - I deserve to have my desires satisfied
 - Children Candy
 - Breaks up marriages
 - Enslaves people to drugs
 - Justifies mistreatment of others
 - Satan is coming at Jesus when he is at one of his weakest points.
- How does Jesus Respond?
 - Quotes Deuteronomy 8:3
- God did not create us to be animals

Paint the picture:

- Jesus is hungry and Satan tempts him to break His and use his divinity to satisfy the desires of His flesh but Jesus turns to the Scriptures to fight back against the Devil

Transition:

Satan moves on to the next temptation

Read the Passage: Matthew 4:5-7**Take Notice:**

- Pinnacle of the Temple: the building is not important
- Here Satan changes his tactics
- Psalm 91:11-12

Ask the Questions

- Why does Satan tell Jesus to throw himself down?
 - The real danger is our willingness to sin not the opportunity to sin
- “He says, “Cast thyself,” because the voice of the Devil, which is always called men downwards, has power to persuade them, but may not compel them to fall.” Jerome 420AD
- What does Satan tempt Jesus with?
 - Already: satisfying the desires of the flesh
 - Pride: I can manipulate God the Father
 - Paganism treat God like a thing rather than a Person
 - “Please Stop”

- Some churches
- This is treating God like a means to an end.
- The goal of the Christian life is to know and love God
- How does Jesus respond?
 - Not enough to memorize the Scriptures but we have to know what they mean
 - A.W. Tozer “Satan’s greatest weapon is man’s ignorance of God’s word”
 - Psalm 91 is talking about God’s protection when we fall into danger not when we leap head long into it.
 - Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16

Paint the picture/Transition:

Satan has tempted Jesus with satisfying the desires of the flesh. He has tempted with Pride and challenged Him to manipulate God the Father and now he moves on the to the final temptation...

Read the Passage: Matthew 4:8-11

Take Notice:

- Satan takes Him to another high point this time on the top of a mountain
- Doesn’t try to twist Scripture
- I will give you all these things if you fall down and worship me
 - We see the depth of Satan’s delusion
 - Satan claims authority over the kingdoms of the world
 - “I will give you their splendor and all this authority, because it has been given over to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.”
Luke 4:6
 - Romans 13

Ask the Questions:

- What is Satan tempting Jesus with
 - Satisfying the desires of the flesh
 - Pride: and manipulating God
 - Power
- Jesus being fully God has all authority has all power
- How does Jesus Respond?
 - Jesus has had enough
 - He quotes Deuteronomy 6:13
 - Jesus has the authority

Conclusion:

- Jesus was tempted with satisfying the desires of the flesh, pride, and lust for power.
- He combatted the Devil and resisted temptation
 - Knowing the word of God

- Understanding what it means
- Ephesians 6
- When we have wilderness moments we need to have a firm foundation of the truth of God's word

Challenge:

- Rhythms of life
 - Rhythm of repentance
 - Rhythm of digesting God's word
 - Oil changes, fitness plans, personal relationships
- Preparing for battle
 - John Chrysostom "We take up arms not to be idle but to fight"
- If you do not have a plan to study Scripture make one this week