

Sermon Series:
Who is this man? - The Book of Mark
Sermon Title:
The Temptation of Jesus Christ [Sermon #4]
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We've been looking for 3 weeks now in the book of Mark at:
Who is Jesus?

The Testimony of Scripture is that he is the promised KING, the anointed one, the messiah.

His name means 'God saves'.

He's the Son of God, God the Son.

The scriptures predicted that God would suddenly come to his temple.

The books of the Law, the minor prophets and the major prophets all give testimony of his coming.

The Testimony of John the Baptizer is that one was coming who would be mighty and who would be the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

He is one who baptizes, who fills, immerses, drowns you in the Holy Spirit of God.

John's job was to get people ready to change. Jesus' job would be to **ACTUALLY** change people.

Last week, the Trinitarian God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit appeared at the same time and the same place to testify to who Jesus is.

He is the sinless Son of God.

We saw the Holy Spirit descend on him and we heard the Father speak, "You are my beloved Son.

With you I am well pleased."

Now, as soon as he is baptized, Mark 1:12-13 'The Spirit immediately 'drove him out into the wilderness'. 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.

I did a Google search the other day for '40 days' and in about 5 seconds it produced 112,000,000 results.

- 40 days with Jesus
- 40 days of dating
- 40 day miracle diet
- 40 day cleansing
- 40 day devotional
- 40 days of giving

Probably the most famous 40 days of anything in world history is Jesus fasting for 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.

Mark is brief! Very brief!

Matthew and Luke tell us that Jesus was fasting during this time. They tell us the conversation between Jesus and Satan.

Mark, for some reason leaves out the details.

It's a flash.

A brief snapshot. Why?

Because in Mark, the confrontation with Satan and his kingdom simply begins here and continues throughout the whole book.

Jesus and his kingdom will break into Satan's realm and as HE does, Satan and all of his minions show their faces.

In fact, at the baptism of Jesus the heavens opened up and now hell opens up in response.

1. What is the significance of the place; the wilderness?
the wilderness, the desert, the God-forsaken land, the wild, a place of loneliness.

Why does the Spirit drive Jesus into the wilderness on purpose?

The wilderness is the place of testing.

Moses was in the wilderness for 40 years when God spoke to him through the burning bush.

The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

Elijah spent 40 days in the wilderness after he fled from queen Jezebel.

In the Old Testament, the land that is cultivated and the land that is inhabited symbolizes the place of blessing.
There is **water**. There is **food**. There is **growth**.
There are **people**.

The desert or the wilderness was the cursed place; waterless, lifeless, death. This is the devil's territory. It's a scary place.

Have you ever been alone in the wild for days? It's tough to do.

There's no electricity. No food. No water. Psychologically, it feels like you could go mad.

Alone.

The only thing worse than being alone for 40 days, is being with Satan for 40 days.

So, the Spirit leads Jesus into the enemy's territory. This is the devil's turf.

*Context: Written to Roman Christians in persecution. Nero. Rome burned. Blamed on Christians. living in tombs. dressed like wild animals. Seemed like they were face to face with the devil. Hey, Jesus knows what you're going through. He knows.

Only 2 places in the Bible where we see temptation directly.
Genesis 2 and here, at the Temptation of Jesus.

A Comparison between the first Adam and the second Adam, Jesus shows us the similarities and the differences.

Adam & Eve's temptation took place in a garden paradise.

Food in abundance.

Water.

Closeness with God.

Companionship.

Kind animals all around.

Satan appears in the hidden form of a snake,

yet they sinned.

Jesus' temptation took place in the wild desert.

No food.

No water.

Alone.

Wild animals around.

Satan appears in person, **yet he doesn't sin.**

This is tougher than any temptation you and I could ever face.

Much different than Adam and Eve's. Jesus will succeed where they failed, where Israel failed; where we all have failed.

2. What's the significance of the the temptation?

*It is crucial to remember the purpose of Jesus' mission.

What is it?

He is the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

He has come to die.

He has come to fulfill all righteousness.

He has invaded the devil's territory to snatch away sin and death and make a way for people to be saved.

He has come to go to the cross.

So, the devil's temptations (which aren't in Mark) are focused on diverting this mission.

I think it is impossible for us to understand the psychological torture that Satan used.

He came at Jesus when he was weak.

He came when he was alone.

Tired.

Near starvation.

[Read Matthew 4:1-11](#)

The last thing that we heard at the baptism is the Father say, "You are my beloved Son. With you, I am well pleased." And now Satan comes and says to Jesus 2x, '**If you're the Son of God**'...

Now, don't think that he's trying to get Jesus to doubt that he is God's Son. That's not what is happening here.

What is happening here in every instance is that Satan is trying to get Jesus to:

TAKE THE EASY WAY. DON'T SUFFER. MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF. THE SON OF GOD DESERVES BETTER THAN THIS.

Temptation #1-

'This is no way for the Son of God to be living.
Use your power to make these stones bread.
No need to trust in God's provisions.
You have the power to make it happen now.
Why not do it, if you can?
God is slow.
He works slow.
Just do it.

'No devil. It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'. I will trust God.'

Temptation #2-

Jesus you know that the angels will catch you if you jump off of the temple.
It'll be a great miracle.
Everyone will see it and they'll all believe in you.
Forget about this cross stuff; this suffering.
All you have to do is perform a sign.
They'll all believe easily.
Do it the easy way.
If it's followers you want, that's easy.
Miracles will produce instant followers.

'No devil. It is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Temptation #3-

Jesus what you want is glory and honor right?

Power?

A kingdom?

I'll give you the whole world.

Just fall down and worship me and it'll be yours.

We can bypass the cross,

the pain,

the spitting in your face,

the ripping of your beard,

the punches to the face,

your back ripped apart by lashes.

A slight bow of worship and you'll have the kingdoms of the world.

No devil. It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'

Don't suffer. Take the easy way.

DON'T GO TO THE CROSS !

The cross isn't necessary for someone like you- the Son of God.

You're above that.

APPLICATION:

1. What if... Jesus would've fallen to temptation?
2. What does it mean for us that Jesus Christ did not give into Satan's temptation? He was victorious. So what does it mean? How about for those suffering in Rome, whom Mark is writing to? What about us?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

- He destroyed the power of the devil
- He delivered you from the slavery to sin
- He is a merciful and faithful high priest by ‘turning away the wrath of God, by an offering’.
- He is able to help you when you’re being tempted.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

- He was tempted in every way, but without sin
 - His payment on the cross, his righteousness applied to you and his power over death....gives you confidence to approach him, no matter how nasty you feel.
 - He is able to give mercy and grace to help you in a time of need
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***Honorary degree- illustration**

He didn’t give into sin but was perfect.

Jesus had to live your life.

Jesus had to be tempted in all ways as you, or he couldn’t live your life.

Because he was tempted in all ways as you are, he is able to sympathize with your weaknesses and intercede on your behalf.

Because he resisted temptation, you can also.

He received the punishment that you should’ve received.

He died the death you should’ve died.

He rose again....and is alive.

So, when you die, he has the power to raise you as well.

BENEDICTION

Jude 24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forevermore. Amen.