

Sermon Sunday February 26, 2023

Matthew 4: 1-11

The Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 4: 1

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil.”

Being led by the Holy Spirit that took him into the wilderness alone for Jesus was a willing servant for us to go it alone separated for 40 days!

It is fitting that Jesus is all alone as Luther describes it “ Solitary and alone by God, angels and man, by all creatures”

Being alone is it not when we too are alone, with no one around us that are minds can take us to places we would not go when talking to others or in the presence of others? Is it not in these times that we are alone when we have no support or advise or council that we realize how weak our faith can be.

How deeply unbelief is ingrained into our hearts and we can doubt the very goodness of God to protect and save us. The devils lie, as he did with Adam and Eve. “Who said you could not be as God?”

So all alone Jesus is lead into the wilderness, where is your wilderness what does it look like? Where does your temptations lie, in the computer screen with its temptations of lust, the addiction of substance, the addiction to social media, pride, your career that over shadows your time with Jesus and family?

So we all need to know that without Jesus who does know what we are going through times in our own wilderness, that we are not alone!

Jesus does know and has experienced the attacks of Satan as we experience daily. You see that Jesus was also tempted by needs and wants as a man in the human flesh, but also know that this same Jesus in human flesh also died and defeated the Devil in the same flesh on the cross! Praise the Lord!

Luther stated this in one of his sermons on this scripture:

“ We should not seek want and temptation they will surely come of themselves; we ought then do our best to act honestly, The text reads : Jesus was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness and not: Jesus himself chose to go into the wilderness. ”

Romans 8: 14

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ”

Jesus goes willingly lead by the Holy Spirit, as the true Lamb of God to do the will of the Father for us!

Matthew 4: 2-4

“After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’^[a]”

Forty days alone and hungry, the devil moves in to attack at the proper time! Attack a basic for Jesus as true man was indeed famished!

So, Satan the master of deception tries to first to compliment Jesus to gain a connection. " So if you are the Son of God turn these stones into loafs of bread"

In each response Jesus shuts up the temptation and Satan! It is Written for all to read and be saved by the true word of God!

Jesus avoids the hunger and goes to the power of Scripture. That life does not on depend only on food but by the word of God.

Matthew 4: 4

"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"^[a]"

We too can follow his word for what ever situation what ever temptation we face we too can go to power of the word of God.

But this does not stop Satan from continuing his attacks. Using the temptation of worldly statue of being at the pinnacle of the Temple as towering over his church and profits. But if you are the Son of God you can save your self.

Matthew 4: 5-7

"Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."^[a]"⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'^[b]"

Jesus again when to Scripture " It is written, but the devil is well versed in Scripture and will as he does manipulate and lie to achieve death to the children of God. In this case tell Jesus to

jump from the pinnacle to prove his own personal glory and fame.

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Jesus confronts each attack stay calm and uses the power of the Holy Spirit to directly cause the devil to try to change tactics each time but in the end he does flee. We are to look to these examples as well every time we feel the attack of Satan in our lives.

The worry, anxiety that comes over each of us the attack that seems to overrule our own common sense. We are to follow the example of Jesus. As we are put to the test.

Matthew 7-11

“Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’^[a]”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’^[b]”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.”

For all that the devil offered it was canceled by the simple words of Power and truth of the written word of God! It is written for us to know the God that we serve.

For Jesus refuses this path to walk of his own glory for he could have destroyed Satan, but instead he chose to walk the path to the cross, in Love he chose to be born in humility in a stable, live

a life as a carpenter and to be brought low in the Wilderness and suffer for his love for us! To become obedient to the point of torture and death to win for us life by his blood!

Jesus defeated Satan Hallelujah !