

The Journey... Walk as Jesus Walked

Part 8 – What Jesus Christ & Tiger Woods Don't Have in Common!

Matthew 4:1-11 – February 14, 2010

Intro: Tiger Woods gave into temptation!

Immediately after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is led into the wilderness to face his first real test. Satan tempts Him with three very specific challenges. Will the Son of God withstand this full, frontal assault on His Deity? Let's look at the temptations and how He responds!

I. The **context** of the temptation (v. 1-2a)

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He ^{1a}then became hungry.

Notes on the gospel differences:

*Mark 1:12-13: A man's view... 38 words. Mentions wild beasts because that would be familiar to his Roman audience because of the gladiators in the theater.

*Luke 4:1-13: Very detailed and yet temptation 2 and 3 are reversed in his order. It follows the order of the temptations in 1 John 2:15-17.

*John doesn't reference the temptation because Jesus is presented as God. God can't be tempted! (cf. James)

A. The **Leading**

1. *Then*: No sooner had Jesus experienced the first testimony of His ministry (His baptism), He now receives the first testing of His ministry. He is anointed by the HS, affirmed by His Father and now attacked by Satan.
2. Principle: **Temptation** always follows a **triumph!**
 - Trials that follow a mountain-top decision at camp.
 - Commitment to God comes with a cost

3. *By the Spirit*: God is on the offensive. Jesus is led to Satan for this epic confrontation. Jesus is prepared. He had seen the temptation in the garden. Now He is alone... 1 on 1 with Satan. Jesus was expecting it. There were no surprises!
4. Jovinian, a heretical fifth-century monk, taught that after a person was baptized he was forever free of the devil's power and from temptation. Jerome, his most outstanding opponent, wisely commented that baptism does not drown the devil. MacArthur, J. (1989). *Matthew* (84). Chicago: Moody Press.

B. The **Location**

1. *"Into the wilderness"*: A hot, barren, and desolate area that extends west from the Dead Sea almost to Jerusalem, and is some thirty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide.
2. He is isolated. **Think: Survivor without the rewards of the immunity challenge! Death Valley!**
3. **Application: No one was watching. How do we do when no one is watching?**
 - Pornography on business trips
 - What you watch on TV when your spouse goes to bed.

C. The **Liar**

"The devil" (Diabolos): accuser, slanderer; to throw across. He encourages us to sin and then accuses us! He will also throw false information and half-truths to get us to fall. *Jude 24 Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling*

D. The **Length**

1. *40 days*: without food for sure. Some believe without water... which would be a miracle. What was Jesus doing those 40 days?
 - Praying: It would be His personal retreat talking to His heavenly Father.

- Fasting: It made the first temptation even more tempting. Note on fasting: It eliminates the garbage in your life physically and spiritually. [My fast... 40 days](#)

E. The **Legitimacy**: Was Jesus temptation real? Was He...

1. Able not to sin?

- In His Humanity: Jesus was able to resist temptation, but it didn't lessen its intensity in any way.
- *He is our great high priest, tempted in all ways like us, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15)*

2. Not able to sin?

- In His Deity: Jesus could not sin!
- The test: Not to see if He could fall, but to prove he can't fall!

II. The **conflict** of the temptations (v. 2b-10)

³And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

There are 3 specific attacks on Jesus by Satan. Each one is calculated to appeal to Jesus because of His physical vulnerability after His 40 day fast and His claim as the Son of God.

A. Temptation #1

1. The request by Satan:

- Take care of yourself by doing a miracle and feed yourself! First class condition: It assumes truth. If you are the son of God and since you are... You can do whatever you want! Just do it!
- Compare to garden temptation. God is holding out on you. Eat the fruit and you will become wise like Him!

2. The realm and motive of the challenge:

- **The body/physical**: Jesus was weak from hunger and vulnerable.

- Satan's motive: Satan is challenging the **provision of God!** Why would God lead you out here to starve? Satan suggests that his legitimate craving be satisfied in an illegitimate way!
- Ex. Compare Israel in the wilderness and needing God's provision of manna in order to live!

3. The reason it was wrong:

- It is distorting the **position** of God. In essence, you have the position... go ahead and take advantage of its privileges! It would have taken advantage of the benefits of His Sonship and would have revealed an unwillingness of to be completely obedient to the will of the Father. It appeals to His rights!

4. The response of Jesus (v.4)

- *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"* Deut. 8:3
- He demonstrates His perfect **dependence** on God and His submission. It is an appropriation of the supply of God.

5. Our response:

- **Depend** on God to meet your needs.
(My God shall supply all your needs Phil.4:19)
- Happiness doesn't consist of self-indulgent gratification, but in submission to the will of God expressed in the Word of God! Dr. Curtis Mitchell
- I would rather be physically hungry but spiritually fed!

B. Temptation #2

⁵Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

1. The request by Satan:
 - Challenge God to save You by jumping of the pinnacle of the temple and letting the angels rescue You! If You are going to live by the Word, then put it to the test! See how far God can be trusted! Now he pushes the other direction to get Him off balance.
 - Satan is quoting Psalm 91:11-12 out of context. This passage is referring to those who trust God (and in particular David) in the normal sphere of life, not a foolish act of presumption and self-willed promotion or a spectacular show to bring attention to yourself!
2. The realm and motive of the challenge:
 - The **emotions (soul)**: It appeals to His ego and pride! His emotions could get Him in trouble if He indulged them!
 - Satan's Motive: To misuse the word of God and therefore challenge the **protection** of God. It is forcing the Father to prove His protection of the Son!
3. The reason it was wrong
 - It distorts the **power** of God! It is putting God to the test!
 - God does what He wants, when He wants. Coercing God never works!
4. The response of Jesus
 - *Don't tempt (put to the test) the Lord your God. Jesus once again quotes Scripture from Deut. 6:16.*
 - His response demonstrates His perfect **confidence** in God! It is a vindication of the character of God!
 - **Illustration: If a wife trusts her husband in relation to other women, she doesn't have to hire a PI to have him watched!**
5. Our response: Our trust in God does not have to test God! Where do we place our confidence?

C. Temptation #3

⁸Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; ⁹and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, "YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY."

1. The request by Satan

- I will give you everything you can see... if you bow down and worship me! It wasn't his to give. He didn't own it.

Psalm 24:1 "the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains" vs. II Cor. 4:4 "god of this world" and Eph. 2:2 "prince of the power of the air"

- How arrogant of Satan. Ex. 5 "I wills" in Is. 14.

2. The realm of the challenge

- The **spiritual**
- Satan's Motive: He is challenging the **person** of God. It is a deliberate attempt to deceive Jesus through lying and attempted deception.

3. The reason it was wrong

- It distorts the **plan** of God. You can have all these worldly possessions, but just take a shortcut and bypass the cross. The end justifies the means.
- He offers the crown without the cross, living without dying, happiness without holiness!

4. The response of Jesus

- Get lost, worship and serve God only! Jesus quotes Deut. for the third time. **Deut. 6:13**
- It demonstrates His perfect **obedience** to God. It is recognizing our consecration and worship of God.
- There is room for only 1 God. There is no room for anyone or anything else. Are you suggesting another method, other than my Father's? There is only 1 God to worship!

5. Our response:

- His will... His way or His will... your way? Any other method than the Father's way is a false and inferior substitute!
- Who am I really following?

III. The **consequences** of the Temptation (v. 11)

¹¹Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

A. The **flight** of the devil

1. Satan left Him. He turns on his heel and disappears.
2. **Luke 4:13**: Devil departed from Him until *an opportune time*. This wasn't his only temptation. Satan would try again. Satan may leave you alone for a time, but watch out!
3. *Resist the Devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7)* Unlike sexual temptation where we are told to flee, with Satan we are told to resist! It will always be a battle, but we are instructed to resist him.
4. Luther said, "You can't keep birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair!"

B. The **fellowship** of the angels

1. They angels ministered to Him. The angels **announce** His birth to shepherds in the wilderness and now **attend** to Him in the wilderness!
2. They may have supernaturally brought Him food and drink. This may have allowed Him to sleep a little, watching over Him so no wild beasts could attack.

IV. The conclusions for us today!

- A. Satan always attacks when we are most vulnerable or when we least expect it. (New Orleans onsite kick!).

- B. Know the Word! Satan twisted Scripture to try and justify his position; we need to know Scripture to refute him. We need the Holy Spirit to defeat him, not our human reasoning.
- C. God won't allow us to go through something we can't handle. (I Cor. 10:13)
- D. Application: Tiger caved in every way to his desires. Jesus craved the will of the Father over His desires!

Table Talk:

1. Was Jesus "able not to sin" or "not able to sin"?
2. What 3 areas of life did Satan tempt Jesus? (cf. 1 John 2:15-16).
3. What did Jesus do to "combat" temptation?
4. How are we tempted by the devil today? What is the best way for us to fight temptation?

Sneak Peek:

Next week read John 1:35-51. We will look at the “*First Disciples*”. Be in prayer for the 7 couples who will be at our couples’ retreat.

- What did these 4 men have in common?
- What did “following Jesus” mean to them? How did it affect their lives?
- What will “following Jesus” cost you?