

03-16-14

Scripture: Matthew 4:3-11

Title: Temptation

Remember Matthew is presenting Jesus as King...

In Jesus' temptation He is seen as King
The King of all kings

If you think about it...satan is the only other ruler

The only other kingdom in the universe
If Jesus defeats him...

If/when satan is defeated by Jesus
He is shown to be King of all

Jesus is seen as God and as King in these verses

They are also a great help to us in temptation

Satan is trying here to get Jesus to give in to sin

If he can get Jesus to sin, just once

God's plan would come to an end

Jesus would/could no longer be the
sinless sacrifice

His purpose is to overthrow the Messiah

Much about temptation

Specifically Jesus' temptation

Application in our lives w/ our temptation

Testing and trials

Keeping our eyes on the master

The enemy has a plan

We can know his plan

Often attacks at weak moments
Often attacks after high points

Remember the setting here in Matthew

Jesus had just been baptized

Anointed by the Holy Spirit

Approved and announced by the Father

Then next thing that happens is He goes into the wilderness – He fasts for 40 days...

He goes into direct conflict w/ satan

Arnold Coinby, an historian, says in one of his books that the most dangerous time for a civilization is when it thinks it's safe, when it no longer needs to face further challenges.

The same is true for believers

When we are at our highest point

We are most easily deflated

We like to bask in our victories

That is often when we are most vulnerable

Our lives are to be lived one moment at a time

With our eyes always fixed on the Master

One moment of spiritual victory

Doesn't guarantee victory in the next

One of the greatest things we can do in overcoming temptation is to keep our eyes on the master

Take them off the temptation – with all the enemy’s deceptions – covering ups – he makes things look good that are not good

Fix your eyes on Jesus...

Not only does Jesus understand our temptations...
He was victorious in His temptations...

The Christian life is really daily practicing walking in His presence

His conscious presence evident every moment of every day of our lives

Pray w/o ceasing...

Set your mind on things above...

*Whatsoever things are true,
honorable, right, pure, lovely –
dwell on these things...*

If

Matthew 4:3

Jesus’ temptations are different from yours and mine

How many of us can make stones into bread?

Not temptation for us here

Satan knows what he’s doing

Jesus was tempted where His abilities were

What He was able to do

What satan thought he could twist and distort

Turn from God’s purpose and plan...

Temptation can come in our areas of strength

Trying to get us to turn from honoring God

To honoring ourselves...

Satan begins w/ the word **if**

If you are the Son of God

If this really is true – let's see some power

Let's see some proof of this

Turn these stones to bread

He begins by casting doubt – **if**...

If this is true – even in our lives

If God really loves you then...

Remember when Eve was tempted?

The serpent asked...has God said...???

The enemy tries to get us to doubt God's love for us

To doubt His Word and the truth

Did Jesus doubt that He was God's Son?

Absolutely not...

Did Satan doubt Jesus was God's Son?

Nope – he knew this was true

Still he casts doubt – **if**...

What is this temptation really about here?

Is it wrong for Jesus to have some bread?

No – he was hungry, He could eat bread

Satan is saying – **if** you're the Son of God, you shouldn't be hungry – you deserve better...

You're God's Son, that voice said it (at baptism)

Now get yourself some food – you deserve it!

Step out from God's provision
You deserve this – reach out – take it!

It is written...

Matthew 4:4

How does Jesus begin His response?

It is written

God has said – it is recorded and written down

Look ahead – verse 7, 10 – *it is written...*

What does Jesus respond with?

He responds with God's Word, His Word...

Deuteronomy 8:3

Jesus knows what is most important

It is God's Word

In John 4 He says -- **John 4:34**

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Jesus says – I will never supersede God's will

Supplant, replace, surpass, overtake, take over

God will supply

God's will is enough

It is not bread, food. that keeps us going

Seems like that is most important to sustain life

What's really important...

More important than bread, food...

It is God's sustaining power that we need
More than anything else
It is God's supply, His strength, His help
That is our source of strength
Our source of life

How many times do we run ahead of God...
This is what I need
I'm hungry, I need this...

In God's time, in God's way – God will supply
Jesus was saying...I will live by what God has to say
Not by what I think I need, not by making bread
Not my will, but the Father's will
We should say the same
Live by what God has to say
Not by what we think, our will...

Matthew 6:33 fits quite well here
...all these things will be added unto you
God will supply, He will take care
Why worry about food and drink...
God will supply

Testing God

Matthew 4:5-7

Round 2

First temptation failed
Now satan comes back w/ round 2
Hitting even harder than before

Again we have the word **if**

Verse 6 – **if** You are the Son of God

If Jesus wouldn't work a miracle to prove He is the
Messiah – keeping Himself from starving

...Perhaps God will do a miracle to show He is God

The enemy subtly twists His lies

Now, we'll get God to do the miracle

Prove You are the Messiah

That solves the problem doesn't it?

You're going to trust God to meet all your needs...

So how much do you trust Him?

Jump off this tower

Just prove you really trust Him...

God will save You – right?

God will show You are His Son, the Messiah

Here God is being put to the test...

God even said He'd protect You

Satan's even using scripture – Psalm 91:11-12

Out of context, wrong application...

Twisting the truth of God's Word

In our lives we may say...

God I got myself into this mess

Now You get me out of it...

Psalms 19:13

Deuteronomy 6:16

16 "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, ...

Don't ever test God

Don't ever presume on God

Don't push God into a corner – You've
got to do this

We may go somewhere we know we shouldn't be

And then... God get me out of here...

You're life's going down the drain by choices you've
made, you're at the bottom – God, get me out of here

Not only are we sinning

We are presuming on God, testing God, to get
us out of the problem

Now, we can call on God when we are at the bottom...

He will hear us – but there is repentance

involved also – not just rescue – we may still
have consequences to go through

Must turn away from the sin that took us down

Not just seek Him to get us out of trouble

Rather... Seeking His forgiveness for going there

God is not our genie in a bottle

Do what we want – God will get us out of it

How many times in Jesus' life is He given the
opportunity to do s. so people will realize who He is –
something spectacular

Often asked for a sign by religious leaders...

Herod wanted a sign
At the cross – come down, then we'll believe
Jesus didn't come to be accepted
He came to be rejected

Isaiah 53:3

He came for one reason – to die

Had He given in here – would've bypassed the cross
Public acceptance was not what He was after...

When you attract a crowd w/ sensations
They always want more
Have to give bigger and bigger sensations
Followers would've become lovers of sensation rather
than lovers of God
No greater sensation than God and a relationship
w/ Him
How easily we are distracted from this
Drawn by the lure of sensation

John 6:26-27

Don't use God's power to test God
Never should this be done
No point seeing how far you can get, go...

*I think of the recent issue with the man who was bit by
a snake – finally died after 8(?) times*

Putting God to the test

It doesn't work

People seek sensation

God is who they need, God is who we need

Faith dependent on signs/sensations
Isn't faith at all

Jesus refused the way of sensation
And, He refused to put God on the spot

No other God

Matthew 4:8-9

Now, isn't this why Jesus came...

To have all the kingdoms of the world

Jesus came for the world

Here's His chance

He can have it

Remember studying this as a kid in Sunday School

Have the picture from the lesson in my head

They're both looking out over the whole world

Sounds like a good deal

Jesus gets what He came for

Why can't He just do this...

Seems like such a little thing...

Worship the devil, just for a minute

Only have to do it once, right???

This is just a little compromise...

Doesn't the end justify the means...

It's for a good cause...

The rest of the world is bowing before him

Jesus could, just a little

Just for a minute...

That was my childish mind

Often still evident today ☺

Seems like a good shortcut

Skip a lot of unpleasant things

Go right to the finish

Get what you want

The end justifies the means...

It doesn't matter how you get it...

What does Jesus say?

Deal or no deal?

First commandment – thou shalt have no other gods
before Me

First, most important

Only God is to be worshipped

Cannot worship any other...

Matthew 4:10

Jesus commands satan to leave...

What does he do?

He leaves – he'll be back

For this time – he leaves

Matthew 4:11

The devil leaves and look what else

Angels come w/ bread

Really good bread – God took care of Him

Be gone, for it is written.

Be gone for this is what God says...

Conclusion

Round 1

"God will not let me starve. I don't need to make bread."

Satan will tempt us to distrust God's provision

Round 2

"I will not put God to the test. I already trust Him. I don't need to test Him."

Satan will tempt you to presume on God.

Round 3

"No, I'll worship God, and I'll face the peril of death."

Satan will tempt you to ambition and to fulfill that ambition in his way, worshipping things instead of God

Lessons from Jesus' temptation

Jesus was tempted as we are

Not alone – We are not alone

He understands our weakness

We need to keep our eyes on Him – **Fix your eyes**

Go through life w/ blinders? Perhaps...

Should we focus on the things of this world?

...focus on sin?

When we do that – we give in

Our focus becomes the sin

Remember years ago – skiing w/ 2 of my older kids

Aimee and Matt – I liked the wide smooth trails

They liked skiing in the trees, Seemed crazy to me

Read an article about that at the time

The best way to do this is to look at the open spaces

What happens when you look at the trees?

Fix your eyes

What is more important than Jesus?

What is better than Jesus?

Are we really missing anything of
importance?

Keep your eyes on Him

Know the plan, satan's battle plan is spelled out

Attacks often after a high point, in our

weakness... He twists God's Word

He tries to make us doubt His word

In temptation – ***use God's Word...***

It is written...

The more His word fills our lives

How many of you are still reading your

Bibles? Daily? Start again...

Set your mind on things above

Hide His word in your heart...

Psalm 119...

The more we are focused on Him and His Word

We need to know it, hide it in our hearts...

Benediction:

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Sermon outline

03-16-14

Matthew 4:3-11

I_____

It is w_____

T_____ God

No other G_____