

- I) **V12 INTRO: And Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness**
- II) **As we have seen, Mark began his gospel by declaring Jesus the Son of God
His opening line made this clear: this is the gospel of Jesus Christ the
Son of God**
- III) **In order to show that Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son, Mark began with John
the Baptist
This was because Mark wanted to reveal to his readers that Jesus was
the King**
- IV) **As the King, Jesus would normally have someone going before Him, to
announce Him
Also, the road he traveled would prepared for Him to travel upon
It would be cleared of potholes, large rocks and debris**
- V) **With this in mind, Mark began with two OT quotations: Malachi and Isaiah
This was intended to communicate that Jesus had been prophecied
about**
- VI) **Those who were familiar with the OT would have had a source to refer to
By examining the scriptures, they would have proof of who Jesus was**
- VII) **In V3 Mark quoted the prophet Isaiah
Is 40:3-5 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of
the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be
exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made
straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And
all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**
- VIII) **The message of John was simple: they were to prepare the way of the Lord
They were to clear the debris out of their lives to provide swift access
for Messiah
To do this would require for them to repent and turn from their sin**
- IX) **This would prepare the highway for God to enter in, with nothing hindering
Him**
- X) **As John was preaching and baptizing, many came to receive his baptism
As they did so, they were openly confessing that they were sinners in
need of salvation**
- XI) **His baptism was confusing because Jews weren't baptized into Judaism:**

Converts were

If a Gentile converted: If they were male, they were circumcised, they were washed in "living water", and then offered certain sacrifices

XII) Baptism communicated the washing away of ceremonial impurities and the pollution they contracted in the Gentile world

Jews believed they were automatically God's people so they were not baptized

I) By speaking of the One who was coming to them he made something very clear

My calling is to direct you to Jesus, and not to myself

II) As his ministry grew, people began to come from various parts of Israel

They came and they submitted to John's baptism

Mt 3:5 says Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him

III) Because he was making such an impact, people began wondering if he was Messiah

The Jewish authorities sent religious representatives to question John about this

IV) They asked him Who are you that we may give an answer to those who sent us?

Jn 1:20 He confessed and did not deny, but confessed I am not the Christ!

V) Well, if you aren't the Christ, who then are you?

Jn 1:23 He said I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness Make straight the way of the Lord

VI) I am the voice of one crying (loudly) in the wilderness

The Voice that you are hearing is God's voice, revealed to you through me

The wilderness: Is all you ever have when you do not have God

VII) I am a preacher of righteousness, calling people to prepare to meet the Lord

There are things in your lives that block His entrance: Clear them out by repenting!

VIII) As this was taking place, Jesus came to John to be baptized

As we have seen, John attempted to prevent Him from doing so, but finally relented

V10 When he baptized Jesus, the Spirit descended gently upon Jesus

IX) As we saw, this was a kind of Coronation of the King as He was anointed for ministry

His baptism was also His introduction to His public ministry

X) When Jesus was baptized, His Father spoke from heaven

V11 You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

Mt 3:17 adds This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

XI) Mark now reveals why the Father would be pleased with His Son, Jesus

Jesus has just been commissioned and anointed for service

Now His qualifications as Messiah will be openly demonstrated as He resists Satan

XII) As any ancient King would have had, Jesus had a herald preparing His way for Him

Also, as any King, He had a royal coronation (at His baptism)

I) Now He will be revealed as the One who is powerful and wielding heaven's authority

He is about to reveal His power and authority over His demonic enemies

II) Sometimes we think of Jesus only as meek and gentle, and He is

We can forget that He is also the Warrior King

Ex 15:3 The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is His name.

Is 42:13 The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war He stirs up his zeal; He cries out, He shouts aloud, He shows Himself mighty against His foes.

III) If the newly crowned King is to rule, He must demonstrate His authority to do so

He must defeat any that would attempt to usurp His authority, and crush them

IV) As Savior, He must exercise total control over those who would undermine Him

This is what He is about to do

V) V12 And immediately the Spirit of God drove Jesus into the wilderness

VI) We begin by taking notice that Mark once again uses the word immediately

V10 He used the word immediately when Jesus was baptized

VII) Here, he uses the word to emphasize how quickly Jesus faced a fierce assault

Mark made it clear that immediately after a high point came a

confrontation

VIII) In the life of a believer, it is not unusual for an attack to come after a move of God

This is what we see after the baptism of Jesus

IX) Now, Mark says the Spirit of God drove Jesus into the wilderness

This was a way for Mark to reveal that Jesus was not only Royalty

X) This he made clear when he said Jesus is the Son of God

This was also made clear by introducing John, His messenger and baptizer

XI) In this passage He is not only Royalty but also the Suffering Servant

Is 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

XII) As the Suffering Servant, Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit

Drove: Compelled; driven out

This emphasizes that Jesus was fully submitted to the directions of the Father

I) Why would the Spirit compel Jesus to go into the wilderness

Mt 4:1 tells us Jesus was led by the Spirit to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan

II) Tempted (tested) is a morally neutral word:

It can be good or evil depending on the one devising the test itself

III) Since Satan is the one doing the testing, we know that his intentions were evil

We know this because God does not tempt with evil

Jas 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone

IV) Why was Jesus compelled to depart to the wilderness, to be tested?

FIRST: To reveal His power to resist Satan, revealing His absolute authority over him

SECOND: To teach us Jesus' pattern in overcoming Temptation

V) Jesus is in the Judaeen wilderness and it is hot, dry, and barren

It is 35 mi long (from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea) and 15 mi wide

It would be a place that had venomous snakes and scorpions

VI) It is a wilderness: a very dry and thirsty place

VII) It was pointed out that Adam was tempted in paradise, and yielded to the temptation

Here Jesus is tempted in a wilderness, but He emerges victorious

VIII) V13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days: (The number signifying judgment)

The Flood: Lasted 40 days and nights (Gen 7:12)

The Children of Israel were in the wilderness, 40 years (Nu 14:33)

The number of stripes that were received as punishment was 40 (Dt 25:3)

**IX) Both Matthew and Luke record that Jesus went the full time without food
After forty days of fasting, Jesus' physical condition would have been critical**

It was there that He was tempted by Satan, with evil intent

X) Mt 4:1-11 gives us insight that Mark omits (Turn to Mt 4)

XI) Satan Attacks in three basic areas:

The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life

1 Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

I) These are the basic areas all human beings are tempted in

We see this in the first temptation recorded in scripture: Satan tempting Eve

**II) Satan tempted Eve to take of the forbidden fruit, pointing her attention to it
As she looked upon the tree, something within her responded to the Tempter**

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate

III) Lust of the flesh: it was good for food

Lust of the eyes: it was Pleasant to the eyes

The pride of life: It was a tree desirable to make one wise

IV) Mt 4:3-4 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

V) THE FIRST TEMPTATION: The lust of the flesh
Use Your miraculous power to satisfy your physical appetites

VI) God provided Manna in the wilderness (Ex 16) by turning dew into bread, and God provided the widow of Zarephath with oil and flour to keep her and her son from starving (1 Ki 17), why can't You provide for Yourself if You're hungry?

VII) Jesus was famished with hunger and it would take nothing to turn rocks into bread
If God was good, and a good Father, He would want you to be satisfied, now

VIII) THE TEMPTATION: Meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way

IX) This is something that many are dealing with even now
They are lonely and desire intimacy, so they try to meet in outside of marriage
1 Co 6:13 Food for the stomach and the stomach for food "--but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

X) THOUGHT: To discipline yourself and suffer needless hunger and thirst is not right
Our society is being destroyed by the desire for and pursuit of instant pleasure

XI) Jesus uses the Sword of the Spirit to combat the enemy's temptations
V4 His Father is the One who cares for His needs in all ways (Dt 8:3)
A man can have physical needs met, and still be empty: Spiritual needs are preeminent

I) V5-7 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, and In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest You dash your foot against a stone. Jesus said to him, It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God

II) Satan failed so he moved into a second tactic: Misquoting scripture

This would fall under the category of The Pride of life: Gain a following without sacrifice

- III) **THE TEMPTATION: Use God to attract attention to yourself**
If you won't use Your power to do something spectacular, force Your Father to use His
- IV) **Throw Yourself off of the highest point of the temple**
According to Ps 91:11-12, the angels will lift You up in their hands!
- V) **Satan is tempting Jesus to jump from the pinnacle and to be carried to the bottom by angels**
This could also fulfill a prophecy by Malachi
Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, *whom you seek, shall suddenly come* to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, says the LORD of hosts.
- VI) **The pinnacle is estimated to have been 450 ft. above Kidron Valley**
A sudden entrance, held up by angels, would be quite spectacular!
- VII) **Jesus knew what this kind of effect sensationalism would produce**
FIRST: It never satisfies, because people will grow hungry for something new
SECOND: No matter how noble our motives, to test God is to doubt God
- VIII) **People would not be convinced by signs, anyway**
Jn 12:37 although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him
- IX) **The pride of life is the attitude of the heart that desires constant attention from others**
It is the exaggerated belief in our own accomplishments, possessions, or positions
It is the unhealthy desire for glory from man, at almost any cost
- X) **Many a Christian has given in to such a desire for attention, as well as Pastors**
- XI) **Jesus simply says It is written again You shall not tempt the Lord your God**
The part of the psalm that Satan omitted is what Jesus reveals
- XII) **Ps 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, *To keep you in all your ways.***

The psalm was a promise that God would be with the believer, in all circumstances

I) Though they go through difficulties, God would not forsake them
His angels will be there to provide care and even help, in times of troubles

II) They will guard you in all your ways, no matter where you are and what you are enduring

They will carefully guard you and protect you, as you walk in the ways of God

Is 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand

III) This is why Jesus said You shall not tempt the Lord your God

We do not reject the way God has set before us, and tempt Him to care for us

QUOTE: It is not the way of the believer to go out of his way. He keeps in the way, and then the angels keep him.

IV) Presumption is not faith: learn God's word and live according to what He says

When I got saved, people were charging up credit cards to leave for Antichrist

Some were marrying people they just met, trusting that they were the one!

V) V8-10 Again the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

VI) THIRD TEST: The lust of the eyes

You can have everything that You see

VII) This lust is insatiable, driving us to see only the external and being attracted to it

The desire for a beautiful mate, beautiful home, car or boat or even personal beauty

VIII) It is not that such things are wrong in and of themselves

It is wrong when the desire for these kinds of things drives us to covetousness

- IX) The fact is that the eyes of man are never satisfied
There is always the chance that something we see will be what begins to drive us**
- X) The fact is that our spiritual needs can not be satisfied with material things
We can work so long and hard to get something, only to be disappointed in the end
Eccl 1:8 All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing.**
- XI) Satan was attempting to tempt Jesus to forsake the way of the cross
He was trying to say that He did not need to lay down His life, He could have it all**
- I) Satan was saying: You can wear the crown without bearing the cross
You can have it all, right now! Put Your self first and God last and this will be Yours**
- II) Luke records more of what Satan said
Lu 4:6-7 And the devil said to Him All this authority I will give You, and their glory, for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours**
- III) Jesus knew that what one worships they will also serve
He refused because Instead of redeeming the world, He would have joined the world**
- IV) As the King, Jesus had to show He could defeat Satan even at His own weakest time
He was able to quench the devils fiery darts, and would empower us to do so also**
- V) The way Jesus overcame is our model that we might be overcomers, in Him**
- VI) Mk 1:13 The Devil left Him for a season And the angels ministered to Him
Ministered gives us the insight that they provided comfort, and even food**
- VII) The temptation was over, and Jesus was victorious
The newly crowned king became the conquering King!**

VIII) What do we take away from this

Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.