

The Temptation of Jesus (vss. 45-46)

A historical moment

John 6:14-15 “When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” ¹⁵ **Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.”

Messianic expectations of the time

Getting away to pray

Happens three times, Mark 1:35, Mark 6:46, Mark 14:32

Significance: these are moments where he is facing the reality of his mission and a temptation to take some other way to accomplish it.

What kind of king do you want Jesus to be?

The Godhood of Jesus

Walking on the sea

Verse 48 – “he came to them” and also “he intended to pass by them.” What could this mean?

Possibility 1: This is the disciples’ perspective, that it seemed like he was walking past them, not toward them.

Possibility 2: This is pointing towards a “theophany” – an appearance of God.

Exodus 33:18,19, 22 “Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before ... ²² and while my glory **passes by** I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

1 Kings 19:11-12 “And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD **passed by**, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.”

Take heart, it is I

Literally “ego eimi” – per John 8:57-58 “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”
⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

The Isolation of Jesus

Hardened hearts

A change from before

Mark 4:10-11 “And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “**To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God**, but for those outside everything is in parables...”

Utterly astounded, did not understand about the loaves

Increasing loneliness for Jesus

The story of a leper in India

A picture into his suffering

Hope for the lonely

Questions for Personal Study

1. Imagine what it must have been like when they tried to force Jesus to become king. Why is that a temptation for Jesus?
2. What is the point of Jesus walking on the water? What did it mean that he “passed by?”
3. Why do the disciples not understand?
4. Do you struggle with loneliness? Does it bring you comfort that Jesus understands?