

“Linchpin” - Part 5: Character Matters (8-12-2018)

New Series: Linchpin – A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy: Know what anchors you, and living accordingly!

Review: 1) Love God (fulfilling the Law Part 1) **2) Love People** (Fulfilling the Law Part 2)

Today: Character Matters – Godly character matters and it takes courage!

Introduction: The Gospel – Jesus reconciles us to God and we are in an eternal relationship that changes us forever, for our benefit & His Glory!

The Gospel is something Jesus has done, is doing, and will do just as he promised!

We live in the messy middle – yet that is where the abundant life is promised. And the same Grace that is at work in our reconciliation is working now to redeem our messy lives in the middle of this process.

Jereme: Taking up our cross – life is hard, often doesn’t go as planned, but God is working beautiful things in the storm, even if we don’t see it now we will.

Jarrold: Emotional health – learning to pour out our hearts before God! And finding our refuge in him

Today: Character Matters – and it takes courage & commitment

Main Text: Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Matthew 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

1) First Temptation: Watch what you eat

Matthew 4:3-4 (ESV)

(3) And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." (4) But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Deuteronomy 8:2-5 (ESV)

(2) And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. (3) And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** (4) Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. (5) Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

Notes:

- Knowledge as food . . . Adam & Eve eat the fruit. There is a lot to feed on, what do you eat (consume)?
- You shall “know” the truth, and it will set you free!

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

(31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2) Second Temptation: Reputation or Character?**Matthew 4:5-7 (ESV)**

(5) Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple (6) and 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Deuteronomy 6:16-19 (ESV)

(16) "**You shall not put the LORD your God to the test**, as you tested him at Massah. (17) You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. (18) And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers (19) by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

Notes:

- One of the biggest temptations is to care more about your reputation than your character.
- Are you being driven by how you are perceived?
- It's the difference between pride (which brings crippling fear), and perfect love (which casts out fear)

1 John 4:18 (ESV)

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

3) Third Temptation: Be careful what you worship

Matthew 4:8-10 (ESV)

(8) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ""You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (ESV)

(13) **It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve** and by his name you shall swear. (14) You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— (15) for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

The Golden Calf (Story is told in Deuteronomy 9)

Recap of the Golden Calf story . . .

- **Moses on Mountain 40 days getting the Law**
- **People get anxious/impatient/fearful**
- **Golden Calf – worship & partying**
- **Moses hears & is broken, then another 40 days now in fasting over their sin . . .**

Exodus 32:19-20 (ESV)

(19) And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. (20) He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

Conclusion: Godly Character takes Courage!

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Same word for **fear** (2 Timothy 1:7) as **cowardly** in Rev. 21:8

Revelation 21:8 (8 things listed that lead to ultimate death, it's first on the list!)