

## **The Work of Christ: Week 3 - The Temptation of Christ**

### **Introduction**

- Read Matthew 4:1–11.
- Identify the theological significance: Jesus' temptation is more than a personal moral victory; it is central to His active obedience.
- Frame the lesson: Jesus is the true and faithful Son, succeeding where Adam and Israel failed.

### **I. Contexts of Sonship and Temptation**

- Adam, Israel, and Jesus all called "God's son" in Scripture.
- Adam: the protological son — failed in paradise.
- Israel: the typological son — failed in the wilderness.
- Jesus: the eschatological Son — triumphed in the wilderness.

### **II. Jesus as the Second and Better Adam**

- Both Adam and Christ serve as federal heads for humanity.
- Contrast the settings:
  - Adam: Paradise, fellowship, abundance, unfallen creation.
  - Jesus: Wilderness, alone, fasting 40 days, fallen world.
- Both faced Satan's test of God's Word: "Did God actually say...?" (Genesis 3:1; Matthew 4:3).
- Christ's obedience brings righteousness and cosmic restoration (Romans 5:12–19; Colossians 1:19–20).

### **III. Jesus as the True Israel**

- Jesus recapitulates Israel's story:
  - Genealogy: Culmination of Abraham and David's lines.
  - Flight to Egypt: Fulfilling Hosea 11:1.
  - 40 days/40 years: Jesus endures what Israel could not.
- Jesus' three temptations parallel Israel's wilderness failures:
  - Bread: Trust in God's provision.
  - Testing God: Refusal to demand signs.
  - Worship: Loyalty to God alone (see Deuteronomy 6–8).
- Jesus embodies the lessons Israel failed to learn, showing the sufficiency of God's Word.

### **IV. The Threefold Pattern of Sonship**

- Adam — creation's first representative; failed.
- Israel — covenant people; failed.
- Jesus — the perfect Son who succeeds for His people.

## **V. Theological and Practical Implications**

- Jesus' obedience is credited to believers: union with Christ means sharing in His victory.
- His triumph inaugurates the new creation and reverses the curse of Adam.
- Temptation itself is not sin; it is the battlefield of faith.

## **VI. Summary**

- Jesus, as the faithful Son, fulfills where Adam and Israel failed, giving hope, assurance, and a model for believers to face temptation in faith and dependence on Him.