

# A Man on a Mission

Jesus did something amazing for us when he came to earth. Yes, he gave us the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and gave us a way to be right with God, but we can't miss the lead-up to that moment of overwhelming victory. In Jesus ministry, he showed us a perfect model of how to take the battle to Satan. In Jesus, we see a fearless warrior who staved off Satan, a pagan culture and a frozen religion in 1st Century Judaism for one simple cause—"seeking and saving the lost."

## I. Jesus' first skirmish with Satan (Matthew 4.1-11)

- A. Feed Yourself
  - 1. Jesus had been fasting intensely here.
  - 2. Matthew 4.3. "Tell the stones to become bread." Satan exploits our flesh and uses it to distract us from our mission.
- B. Don't Allow Yourself to Suffer
  - 1. Matthew 4.6. "He will command his angels concerning you." Test God's patience.
  - 2. We are saved, but we ought not take advantage of our salvation as an opportunity for the flesh. (Galatians 5.13.) Selfless love is the result of our salvation, not complacency.
- C. Glorify Yourself
  - 1. Matthew 4.8-10. "All this I will give you." The devil taps into pride here.
  - 2. He does the same thing by influencing us with the "me first" ideology.

## II. Jesus resists Traditionalism

- A. The Pharisees were the ones who hated Jesus the most.
  - 1. Mark 3. 5-6. Early in his ministry, "they plotted to destroy Him." His message and call was a threat to the status quo
  - 2. Hosea 6.6. "For I desire steadfast love, and not sacrifice." Our faith springs forth from a surrendered heart.
- B. Matthew 16.6. Jesus told his disciples to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees."
  - 1. Jesus was much more severe with religious people than "sinners."
  - 2. Matthew 23.23-24. "You have neglected the weightier matters..." Let this not be said of us.

## III. Our Savior Sat with Sinners

- A. The difference between Jesus and Pharisees...
  - 1. The Pharisees sat in comfortable positions, places of honor and declared their own righteousness...while Jesus was washing feet. (John 13.1-17.)
  - 2. What is your faith about?
- B. John 1.14. "The Word became flesh..." Understand the massive sacrifice of stepping down from glory.
  - 1. Jesus left the security of Heaven...are we willing to leave our echo chamber?
  - 2. Jesus invited carnal people to sit at the table with Him. Will we?
- C. Luke 19.10. Jesus didn't come to flaunt his righteousness. Jesus wanted to help people get to Heaven...do we?

Jesus mission was no joke to him. It was life and death serious. It was not a political coup. It was not a slick marketing campaign. It wasn't about getting a certain number of attendance to his sermons. No, Jesus' mission was to make sure that other people got to spend eternity with Him, the Father and the Spirit—out of pure love. This was the mission of Christ and a mission that every Christian has inherited. Holding fast to God is what keeps us together. Extending our hands to a lost and fallen world is the mission that we have been given.