

**Mark: 1:12-13**

*The Temptations of Jesus*

**INTRO:**

Last week we ~~learned~~: Talked About Baptism

The significance of baptism.

We learned where it came from...

And The differences between being sprinkled, the pouring method, and immersion.

And lastly, we learned the deep theological underpinnings why Jesus was baptized via immersion. Prophetic

Today, the Gospel of Mark seems to lead us to a completely different topic.

(Or does it).

And that is the temptation of Jesus.

All three of the synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—the similar gospels share the temptation narrative.

While Matthew and Luke spend lot of ~~considerable~~ time here, Mark only gives us two verses!

Mark doesn't give us the details of what kind of temptations Satan used.

Mark doesn't even tell us if Jesus overcame the temptations.

He just gives us the facts.

Why would Mark do this?

A couple of thoughts on this:

First, Telling the story in this way keeps us in suspense. Mark is like a good movie director.

We expect to find the answer somewhere, somehow and someday, but he's making us wait for it. He wants us to keep reading until the end!

Secondly, it seems that Mark is not really concerned about how Jesus did with the temptations, but his emphasis is that the baptism of the Holy Spirit led to a confrontation with Satan.

Don't miss this, Jesus' baptism and His temptation are intertwined.

They are two sides of the same coin.

In Matthew's gospel, John the Baptizer says to Jesus, "This doesn't seem right, shouldn't you be baptizing me?!"

**Matthew 3:15**

Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness."

In other words, this is God's plan.

*this is a fulfillment to the things promised long ago.*

Now, note here—very important—as we move toward the temptation of Jesus, that righteousness will be tested.

Secondly, during the baptism, God the Father called Jesus "His beloved Son."

We're also going to see how Jesus was challenged to prove this.

*- His Sonship*

So lots of stuff going on in two verses!

Ready?

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:12-13**

12. Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. (CSB)

13. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. (ESV)

*This is the Word of our Lord, Amen.*

**PRAY:**

*Father, a lot is going on in these two verses. I pray that we see your divine hand on all of it.*

*I pray that as we have spent another week in quarantine, that we have allowed you to draw us closer to yourself. That we are giving up our so-called rights, that we are allowing you to have your way with us and that we are learning to listen to your voice like never before.*

*You have our attention Lord God; I pray that we're listening. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

*please teach us now about the temptations of your son our savior, Jesus*

**EXEGESIS:**

12. Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. (CSB)


The gospel of Mark was written to the Romans.

Remember, they loved action. And Mark portrays Jesus as a man of action, because He is.

“Immediately”— without delay or hesitation, Jesus leaves.

*His baptism*

Now, doesn't this seem a bit odd?

Shouldn't there be a celebration? 

We just witnessed a miracle.

*Prophecy has been fulfilled*

We have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit all in one place.

*for Mark to see*

The nation of Israel is watching Jesus be commissioned into saving the world. WOW!

We see Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit visibly,

And hear <sup>Jesus</sup> Him being affirmed by God the Father audibly.

This is a public declaration of Jesus being anointed by God.

This is not a secret.

At this moment, prophecy is being fulfilled one right after another—so cool!

**Isa. 11:2**

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—CSB.*

**Isa. 42:1**

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.—NIV.*

**Isaiah 61:1 NLT**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.*

*All this --*  
No, there is no party.

Because there is work to be done.

Jesus is on a mission to save the human race from themselves and to save them from His wrath.

The party comes later! (Rev. 21)

Back to...

12. Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. (CSB)

Notice who <sup>drives</sup> leads Jesus into the wilderness.

It wasn't Satan. It was the Holy Spirit.

Wow, is that a sermon in a sermon!

How often do we blame Satan for things God is trying to do in our own lives?

The Spirit of God drove Jesus into the desert,

The idea here is being "forced out."

Think about the exorcisms that Jesus performed—same idea—

~~Jesus cast it out!~~

Can you imagine walking into the Az desert with no food or water?

The scorching sun? The blazing heat?

The sand.

The dryness of all this on your skin and body?

You have ~~no provisions—no food and no water.~~

We learn in the other gospels that Jesus is fasting.

Can you imagine the pain that Jesus is getting ready to endure? *All alone,*

13. And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him. (ESV)

The number 40 has significant meaning in the Bible.

Deuteronomy—summary book on the OT.

**cf: Deut. 8:2 NLT**

2. Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands.

3. Yes, He humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

The number "40" is associated with testing.

It's a time to prove your character.

God tests people before He calls them to serve.

Remember Abraham? That was quite the test!


*Noah, Enoch, Moses, Gideon, David, Sarah, Esther*

Does Jesus get to sit this one out, because He's God's son?



*Slow*

*Don't miss this*  
*Key point*

Does Jesus get special privileges? 

No, This theme carries over to His own Son. <sup>attesting</sup>

Think of the back-drop here:

~~Israel failed the test. There are consequences for disobeying God.~~

~~And they spent 40 years in a desert that should have only taken them two weeks max.~~

Moses was on Mt. Sinai forty days and nights getting the 10 Commandments (Exod 34:28),

Elijah was on the run from a crazy woman named Jezebel for forty days and nights to Mt. Horeb (1Kgs 19:8).

In each one of the men's lives, the wilderness was a proving ground.

It was a test of their faithfulness to God.

It's no different for Jesus.

Jesus is going to be tested like never before for 40 days.

BTW, do you happen to remember the two men who appeared during Jesus' transfiguration?

Moses & Elijah! Coincidence? I don't think so.

There are no coincidences in the Kingdom of God.

Back to our verse...

<sup>Jesus</sup> 13. And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And ~~He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him.~~

(ESV)

What did Jesus do in the wilderness for 40 days?

to keep himself busy? ☺

Where did he sleep? Cave or under a tree?

His bed was dirt.

Think about how vulnerable Jesus was to every type of predator.

Although Jesus was divine, He lived in total dependence on the Lord.

He never used his divinity to take a short cut.

He was utterly dependent on God, just like you and I are today.

What He'd do?

Spending 40 days alone in the desert gives someone a lot of time to think, doesn't it?

Do you think He thought about his childhood?

<sup>Past</sup>  
<sup>Forward</sup>  
Did Jesus think about the cross?

Did He have nightmares about it?

13. And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And ~~He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him.~~

(ESV)



The Greek word for tempted is peirasmos (per-ahz-mos).

This is a fascinating word.

It is a neutral word, which means that it can be used as testing for good or temptation for evil.

From God's viewpoint, this is a test, but from Satan's perspective, this is a temptation.

A test builds spiritual muscle, and through the pain brings you closer to God.

A temptation is a trick. The sole purpose of a temptation is to make you fail.

So how did Satan try to trick Jesus?

For us to understand this, we need to use the whole counsel of God.

### **Hebrews 4:15 CSB**

...He (Jesus) has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

This doesn't necessarily mean that Jesus was tempted with every type of temptation there is.

Because there were temptations that Jesus had that we'll never experience.

For example, turning a stone into bread.

The apostle John gives us insight.

### **1 John 2:16 NIV**

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.

So Scripture teaches us that there are three broad categories of temptation.

Every specific type of temptation will fit into one of these three categories.

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

So let's take a look at each one of these temptations:

### **Matthew 4:2 ESV**

And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

Jesus just fasted for 40 days. *he's hungry.*

The human body goes into starvation mode around day 35.

This was a temptation of the lust of the flesh.

Satan was trying to trick Jesus into using His divine power to satisfy His hunger.

*Exodus*  
The Israelites had to depend on God to feed them daily.

So did Jesus. *now has to make the decision - to feed himself or to wait for his father.*

Satan was tempting Jesus to take a shortcut—to bypass his humanity and use his divinity to satisfy his own hunger.

Bypassing God's will.

When we bypass God's will, we are telling God that we don't believe that He will take care of us—we have to take matters into our own hands.

*that's the lust of the flesh - he said no*

Temptation #2:

**Luke 4:5-7 CSB**

5 So he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 The devil said to him, "I will give you their splendor and all this authority, because it has been given over to me, and I can give it to anyone I want.

7 If you, then, will worship me, all will be yours."

This temptation was of the lust of the eyes.

This was a test of Jesus' submission and obedience.

Would Jesus consistently submit to the will of His Father...or would He, just this one time, submit to the authority of Satan.

Satan was saying, "there's no need to go to the cross."

"I can make this really easy for you...on one condition, of course."

Have you noticed that "easy, convenient and free" are not words we come across in Scripture that often?

No, see God's ways are higher than ours.

We may not understand His ways, but we can be reassured that He always has the best planned...even if it means sending His own Son to the cross.

Temptation #3:

**Luke 4:9 CSB**

So Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem, had Jesus stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here.

This is the pride of life.

*TO be noticed, famous*

This was a test of God's dependence.

It's never a good idea to test God's promises.

*- believe Gods promises*

There's only one place in Scripture where God says, "Test me!" (Malachi 3:10)

*The Great Eternal Prophet*

If Jesus jumped off the temple, He was ignoring the will of His Father—by bringing attention upon Himself.

Was Jesus going to trust His Father?

*Key Point \**

To trust God—in that He will bring about His promises in His time.

*- wait*

In each temptation, Satan mocked Jesus.

He questioned His identity as God.

*son of God*

"If" you are the son of God...

He used the same trick with Adam and Eve.

Satan told them that if they ate the fruit, they would be like God.

What's the problem with that? They were already like God.

God told them they were made in His image.

*Everything to lose - nothing to gain*

So all that to say that because Jesus was tempted in all three areas of:

*Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...*

Proves that Jesus has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. (Heb 4:15)

*After the test -> season of testing*

And it's only now, to where we see Jesus commissioned by God and tested by God to where He begins His ministry. *Jesus passed the test.*

**PREACH:**

I want to close today by urging you to think about your own vulnerabilities.

Each one of us has a specific area in our lives where we are susceptible to temptation.

**James 1:13 NLT**

13 And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else.

14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

*- Consequences*

15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. *- Not good*

*- Please don't believe the lie that you are not accountable for your life, decisions*

I bring this up because Satan gets way too much credit for our temptations.

③ If I had a nickel for every time I heard someone say—"Well, if Satan would just leave me alone!"

That's not what Scripture says.

Let's look at James again.

14 Temptation comes from our own desires,

Satan is not omnipresent like God.

He can't be in multiple places at one time. Satan is a created being.

*Omni presence is An Attribute of God - not His creature*

Yes, he's powerful. Yes, he has demons that do his dirty work.

*Satan*

But don't miss this point, Scripture says

14 Temptation comes from our own desires,

*What's that mean?*

Most of the time, your temptations come from within you.

That's the power of sin.

Scripture says that you give in to temptation because you want to.

Many times, we place ourselves in prime opportunities with events and people for the sole purpose of being tempted...so that we can sin.

*We plan to be tempted - to sin*

We sin because we get something out of it.

If we didn't get anything out of it, we wouldn't sin.

It doesn't have to be the big temptations and sins that we focus on all the time—drinking, drugs, and sex.

*Let's specific*

What about the temptation to fear—amid the quarantine.

*- To fear or not to fear  
- It's a choice*

The temptation to doubt God's promises on your life?

*↳ What choice reveals what I truly believe*

The temptation to take matters into your hands...because God is not working on your timeframe.

The temptation to walk away from God because you're angry at Him for allowing all of this to happen—for disrupting your life.

The temptation to leave the Church because your needs are not being met.

And what about drinking, drugs, and sex?

*Scripture says that His ways are higher than yours - He does things differently*

Is it possible that your propensity to drink is an opportunity to know God better?

Is it possible that as <sup>you</sup> search for pornography, that you're really searching for God? *- Intimacy*

Is it possible that your struggle with same-sex attraction is an invitation for you to experience God?

We've all got something that God is working on in us.

*struggle*

And I want you to know— that I don't care what your biggest temptation is, you are welcome at River Bible Church.

We are a group of imperfect people who struggle just like you.

There's one significant difference. *We struggle together; you're invited.*

~~We don't struggle alone and we don't want you to any longer~~

And we cling to Jesus. *Hope = grace = salvation*  
*When you fall in love w/ Jesus, all this other stuff eventually melts away.*

This is how we experience God, day by day. *↳ Teflon - nothing sticks.*

**PRAY:**

*Father, thank you that your ways are so much higher than ours. Thank you that you always know what is best for our lives...even when it makes no sense to us.*

*Father, remind us of your promises. Remind us, Lord, that...*

*The temptations in our life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. You will not allow the temptation to be more than we can stand. Because when we are tempted, You will show you a way out. (1 Cor. 10:13). In Jesus Name. Amen.*

*Lie that says "I'm the only one"*

*↳ We don't have the way - we're lost  
↳ You are the way, TRUTH & life*

**Tithes and Offerings:**

Luis and Beatriz Soto

If you know anything about Utah, you know that's the home of the Mormon faith.

Their headquarters is in Salt Lake City, and that's where Luis and Beatriz Soto have planted a Church.

The Sotos are Hispanic, and they have planted a church in the West Valley section of Salt Lake City that is reaching Hispanics for Christ.

They call it Rock of the Centuries Baptist Church.

It's estimated that 98 percent of the people in Salt Lake City are lost and without Christ.

So they have their work cut out for them.

A portion of your tithes and offerings go to missionaries like the Sotos all over the world.

We now have three ways to give:

1. PO Box 4540 Cottonwood AZ 86326
2. Online via our website at [RiverBible.org](http://RiverBible.org)
3. Or text 928-421-4030. Give 1

Okay, River. I pray that you are staying in touch with one another.

We have:

Online prayer every Wednesday at 12 noon

Online Bible Study Thursdays at 6:30 pm

I love you. Peace and blessings to you.