

Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13
The Temptation of Jesus Christ, Part 1

Introduction: Cultural Christianity

1. *Faust* – selling your soul to the Devil; tempted with wisdom and pleasure, power and pride
2. Satan – The tempter; *Diabolis* – the slanderer; a murderer from the beginning, the serpent and arch enemy of God
3. Satan tempts Christ to betray His identity and His Father
4. **Mark 1:12-13** – a summary of the narrative

Central Focus of Our Text: Jesus was tempted by Satan with pleasure apart from God, pride in His identity as the Son of God, and power to achieve His ends apart from God's plan and design. Jesus was tempted as we are (pleasure, pride, & power) yet without sin.

The Complexity of Our Passage

1. What does temptation look like to the Son of God?
 - a. Our natures are corrupted with sin; we are inclined towards outward & inward temptation
 - b. Jesus never had evil desires, nor did He sin
 - c. His temptations were real: how He identifies with us (**Heb 4:15**)
2. Jesus' temptations are alien to us; they are specific to Him: we aren't tempted to turn stones into bread

The Steering of the Spirit (v 1; Mark 1:12)

1. The Holy Spirit which just rested on Jesus at His Baptism (**Matt 3:16**), now drives Jesus into the wilderness
2. *The Wilderness*: Place of darkness, where Satan dwells
3. The Holy Spirit leads Jesus to be tempted by Satan

The Sneering of Satan (vv 1-2)

1. God the Father has just declared Jesus to be His Son with whom He is well pleased (**Matthew 3:17**)
2. The leading of Jesus to face Satan is not accidental; The Devil is God's devil
3. Jesus fasted 40 days and nights – microcosm of Israel's wandering in the desert for 40 years
4. Satan sneers at Jesus *IF you are the Son*
5. What Son of God does not have rights and privileges?
6. The Voice from Heaven is challenged by the Voice of Hell
7. Satan's Sneer: Deliberate sowing seeds of doubt into the ears of the Son of God

Satan's Veneer of Pleasure (vv 3-4, 11)

1. There is nothing wrong with eating food
2. There is nothing wrong with Jesus displaying His power – He healed people and cast out devils
 - a. The angels ministered to Jesus – probably brought food
3. Jesus is fulfilling what Israel failed to do in the wilderness
 - a. God worked miracles in the Exodus, the Red Sea, water from the rock, manna from Heaven, quail, etc
 - b. Israel complained constantly; They did not trust God
 - c. Jesus fasted – never complained and relied on God's love and provision; He only does what the Father commands
4. Satan is Subtle – Be independent from God and satisfy your needs (this would drive a wedge between Father and Son)
5. Jesus' Response: God and His Word is Enough! (**Deut 8:1-3**)
6. Jesus learned discipline/obedience in the wilderness (**Deut 8:4**)

Satan's Veneer of Pride (vv 5-7)

1. The Enemy twists the Word of God for personal advantage
2. Jesus is tempted to authenticate who He is: Be Proud He's the Son of God, The Messiah – Display it to the World!
3. Satan twists Psalm 91:11-12 – taken out of context; Psalm 91 is about God protecting His righteous One, not testing God
4. Satan does not quote Psalm 91:13
5. Satan asks Jesus to make His Father into a Show – do tricks
6. Jesus' Response: Do not test God! (**Deut 6:16**); Do not use God to look Good (**Allusion back to Exodus 17**)

Satan's Veneer of Power (vv 8-10)

1. Satan Assaults the Ministry of Jesus
 - a. Jesus is destined to inherit the nations as the suffering servant (**See Is 42-53; Psalm 2:7; Daniel 7:13-14**)
 - b. Satan offers compromise and short cuts
2. Did Satan have the authority to offer the nations? Yes, for he is the god of this world (**1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4a**)
3. Jesus would reclaim the world
4. Jesus' Response: Love God with your whole heart (**Deut 6:13**); The Lord sends the enemy packing – Be Gone!

Christians' Temptations Cohere with the Son's

1. We are tempted with Pleasure, Pride, & Power (**Gen 3:6; 1 Jn 2:15-16**)
2. No other religion demonstrates God coming to be tempted as we are – Jesus came to be tempted, battle the Devil, and win the victory on our behalf
3. What if Jesus had failed? We would not have a Savior!