

The First Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, February 18, 2024

“Listening to Jesus ~ Temptation in the Wilderness”

James 1:2-15 & Luke 4:1-13

Learning to listen Jesus’ voice is a _____ that is developed over time, and requires us to become comfortable with stillness and _____. However, the more we seek to stop and listen to Jesus’ voice, the more _____ will become a habit of our heart. And the greater the habit, the greater the transformation. For the more we listen to Jesus, the more like Him we’ll become!

Temptation = A strong urge or desire to have or do something—especially something that’s bad, wrong, or unwise; a fundamental desire to engage in _____ urges for enjoyment that threaten long-term goals; the act of tempting; enticement or allurements; to attract, _____, and pull.”

Temptation is an inescapable _____ of our human existence—it’s everywhere, and not a day that goes by that we’re not tempted in some way.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Although Jesus had a humanity just like ours, unlike us, He was _____.

We all know what it’s like to be _____—to love the good and to simultaneously find ourselves seeking after evil.

“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.” (Romans 7:15;19)

As Paul says in Romans 7:20; “Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.”

#1. The _____ of temptation.

The wilderness wasn’t just the geographical context for Jesus’ temptation, it was also the _____ context.

Spiritual wilderness = a period of time when we experience testing, trials, and spiritual _____. We can feel _____ from God, spiritually dry, or that our prayers are going nowhere. This can lead to feelings of confusion or _____ about our purpose and direction in life, and cause us to question God’s goodness and _____ for us.

Wilderness experiences can also equip us to _____ and have victory over future battles in life because they teach us to _____ on God for our needs and to choose to obey Him even when our judgement suggests the opposite.

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.” (Luke 4:1-2)

- This wasn’t an _____, this wasn’t just Jesus stumbling into the way of temptation. This was all part of the Father’s _____ and the Spirit’s work. When we find ourselves in the wilderness, instead of _____ against it, we need to _____ that it’s all part of God’s plan for us and that He’s with us.
- The fact that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness shows us that the Holy Spirit’s leading in our lives isn’t always into _____ and ease. The Spirit may lead us, as He did Jesus, into places where we’ll be proven, tested, and _____ for future ministry.
- This battle comes immediately following Jesus’ _____—a high and holy moment of exceeding closeness to His Father. The lesson here is clear: After great honours, we too can expect great _____.
- This is a battle that was to be fought in the _____ and not the _____. Although Jesus fasted and was physically weakened in preparation for this encounter, He was _____ strengthened. This is an important lesson for us because we can so easily depend on our own _____ instead of relying on the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus’ battle with Satan was considerably more _____ than Adam’s.

#2. The _____ of the enemy.

Devil = *diablos* (Gk) =

- **The _____.** One of the ways he does this is to _____ us, like Adam, to partake of the fruit of destruction by making it look so _____.
- **The _____.** After the temptation comes and we’ve taken the _____, he accuses us for having done so.
- **The _____.** Even though he presents himself to us as an _____ of light, as Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians, he’s the enemy of our _____, whose goal is our _____.

The enemy’s names remind us that evil is first and foremost _____.

#3. The _____ of the enemy.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...” (John 10:10)

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

The enemy's tactics can also be seen in the three temptations designed to weaken Jesus' _____ in His heavenly Father's _____.

"Since you're the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." (Luke 4:3)

He's not just tempting Jesus to exercise His divine power to bring _____ to His own suffering, but also to doubt that God will _____ for His hunger.

"To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." (Luke 4:6-7)

He was offering Him all the kingdoms of the world—all the glory—without the _____.

Satan takes Jesus to the high point of the temple in Jerusalem and says; "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" (Luke 4:9-11)

Satan quotes Scripture here, albeit in a _____ way to suit his own purpose, which was to tempt Jesus to foolishly abuse the doctrine of providence and to presume upon the Father's goodness, by putting Him to the _____.

Satan is the great Deceiver, and his grand strategy is deception because he can't _____ in any of these temptations what he promises.

He tells us that sin is _____ and God's righteousness is _____. He tells us sin is _____ and fulfilling. And following God's way is boring and _____. He tricks us into believing that that which is inherently bad for us and self-destructive is the _____ thing for us; it's not only what we want, but also what we deserve.

Although it might look good and taste good, sin never _____ what it promises, and only brings temporary _____ at best, leaving us wanting more. Sin hurts and _____, and when the pleasure fades—and it will—we're left to deal with the guilt, shame, and _____ of our actions.

It's only in the light of God's _____ character and in His word, that we see how horrible a mistake we've made to trust the enemy and not God.

#4. Jesus' _____.

In the face of every temptation that the enemy throws at Him, Jesus responds with

these three simple, yet powerful words; _____.

Instead of being fooled and believing the _____. Instead of doubting God. Instead of succumbing to any _____ desire. Jesus reverts to, and stand, on _____.

Jesus accepted the Scriptures as _____ =

He accepted the Scriptures as _____ =

And He accepted the Scriptures as fully and finally _____ and sufficient for everything in faith and life.

"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

In the face of temptation, we can trust that God not only knows what we _____, but will graciously _____ it.

"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." (Deuteronomy 6:13)

In the face of temptation, we can trust that even though it may be more _____, God's way is always _____, and He will lead us through.

"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." (Deuteronomy 6:16)

In the face of temptation, we don't have to put God to the test, but can trust in His love and _____.

Even when defeated, the enemy always comes back; he always tries again; he's relentless in his _____ of us and in his desire to _____ us. And so, like Jesus, we also need to accept and stand on the authority of God's _____ as an act of _____ to our Lord, and as a statement of faith—a line in the sand—of what we believe to be right and true—no matter what the world says.

Are you prepared to face the whisperings of the tempter?

By grace, and by the Scriptures, are you protected by the One who has already won us the victory in the field of battle?

Will you face the tempter alone or will you trust in Jesus, embrace Him now, and find in Him you all in all?