

Matthew 3:13-17 and 4:1-11 – Jesus’s Baptism and Temptation

Fall teaching series: **Following the Jesus Way of Life**

Jesus shows us the Christian Life in Two Events

Baptism = identifying as God’s loved Son

Temptation = choosing as God’s loved Son

Matthew 3:13-17

“Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. “I am the one who needs to be baptized by you,” he said, “so why are you coming to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus said, “It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed to baptize him. ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Matthew 4:1-11

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. ³ During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶ and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’” ⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” ¹⁰ “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Jesus Fulfills OT Narratives

2 nd Adam	better Moses	true Israel
Genesis 3 - Romans 5	Exodus 34 – Hebrews 3	Hosea 11-Matthew 2
Perfect Obedience	Perfect Deliverer	Perfect Son

Kingdom principle: when you get spiritual life, you then get into spiritual battle.

All of us get tempted to go the wrong way rather than God’s:

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” 1Corinthians 10:13

Jesus shows us how to overcome temptation in our days

We claim our new identity in Jesus

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the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Baptism = a public statement of repentance and new identity with God

God quotes His Word to confirm Jesus' identity: the divine Son and suffering Servant

Psalm 2:7 "He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father."

Isaiah 42:1 "Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations."

We choose to obey God's Word in the moment

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

Temptation = to lure, entice a person to choose contrary to God's will

-Devil is at the root of all temptation to get us to choose life apart from God.

-God never tempts anyone (James 1) but He does test our character to prove it and promote His good.

Temptation and Testing are opposite sides of the same coin. The devil uses temptation to derail us from God's plan while God uses the devil's temptation to prove our identity and loyalty.

Three Core Temptations = "You Don't Need God"

Adam-Eve	Israel	Jesus	Christians
<i>Genesis 3</i>	<i>Exodus-Deut</i>	<i>Gospels</i>	<i>1John 2:16</i>
forbidden fruit	rejected manna	stones to bread	self-gratification = get it yourself
pleasing to eye	Massah: tested God	spectacular rescue	self-glorification = get it your own way
be wise like God	golden calf idolatry	shortcut to power	self-determination = be your own god

First Temptation: *"If you are the Son of God...and of course you are, then why should you stay hungry, you did your 40 days, now simply feed yourself, nothing wrong with a little bread right?"*

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 He will trust God's Word and depend upon Him to provide in the wilderness.

Second Temptation: *"If you are the Son of God...and of course you are, then consider Psalm 91:11-12 because God says He will protect you from harm, and how cool would it be to show that reality by jumping from the top of the temple in downtown Jerusalem and being rescued by angels."*

Jesus replies with Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

Third Temptation: *"If you are the Son of God...and of course you are, then you can have all of this with me, why go through this human drama, why would He send you here to be like them?"*

-Jesus is being tempted to take a shortcut, to gain the Crown without going to the Cross.

Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:13.