

Jesus came to fulfill the Father's plan of Salvation

Introduction

Our hearts should be devoted to God completely. We've got to be all in for Jesus.

Faith is more important than our next meal and obedience to God is more important than feeding of our physical appetites

If not, yielding to temptation becomes a more likely outcome. Knowing the accurate word of God and memorizing the word of God and treasuring the word of God is one of our weapons we can use against the enemy.

We don't argue, we try not to entertain thoughts from the enemy, but we can use scripture to slice and dice the enemy and his plots and schemes. The Bible calls it "the sword of the spirit" our defensive weapon so we can stand in the face of the enemy.

What we will see in our lesson is the temptation by Satan to try to derail the mission of Jesus mission, the tempting of Christ to see if Jesus would use his power to serve Himself or to use his power to obey God.

His strategy has not changed. This is what he tries to do to us. He will misquote, twist and pervert the word out of context. He will come at your weakest moment, lie to you and beguile you in to doing his bidding. He will try to get you to disobey God.

But thanks be to God for His word and the Holy Spirit. God gave us the truth and the power to live a life pleasing to God bringing about the Kingdom of God. We have the power to resist temptation as we submit to the Son of God and resist the devil with the word of God.

Key doctrine: BAPTISM

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The word used here is from the Greek word baptizo meaning "immersion".

True believers understand the deeper meaning of baptism. It identifies the believer with Christ (Rom. 6:3-5). We are not saved by baptism. We are baptized to demonstrate our obedience to Jesus in a public way because he saved us.

Obedying God (3:13-17)

- Believers are called to demonstrate obedience through baptism by immersion.
- John is preaching repentance. He is baptizing those who do repent. Jesus comes to the Jordan river (one of the largest rivers in Judea some 200 miles long) to be baptized by John. John sees Jesus and recognizes Him as "*the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world*" John is surprised and says Jesus should be baptizing him. John is being humble and Jesus is submitting to the God's will.
- John doesn't understand until Jesus says, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." If they both did this, they would be obeying God it would demonstrate their faith fulfilling all righteousness. His first act of obedience to God recorded.
- *John allows Jesus to be baptized*, Jesus convinced John that this was God's will and they should be obedient.
- Jesus was immersed and when he came out of the water God the father speaks and the holy Spirit descends on Jesus. the Holy trinity: Father Son and Holy Ghost.

Jesus is obedient from the start and God affirms who Jesus is and his pleasure in Jesus. This is the public announcement of Jesus as Messiah and the beginning of his ministry. Long awaited but all in God's time. John is a witness to all of this. John was to make way for the Lord. Prepare the hearts of people for the Messiah.

HEARING GOD (4: 1-4)

- We can rely on Scripture to find strength and resist temptation.

- The spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tested. God will test us but the devil will tempt us. We see Jesus being obedient in all things of his life. This wilderness (many Jews felt that demons lived there).
- The devil has many names: the tempter, false accuser, adversary, the leader over demonic forces.
- 40 days and 40 nights with out food or water, so Jesus was hungry and thirsty and this is when then the enemy appears.
- “Since you are the Son of God...” the devil knew who Jesus was. The podcast said satan was trying to get Christ to use His power to satisfy His personal needs over the will of the Lord.
- Jesus never used his power for his own interest. Only to obey and glorify God.
- *“It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

He resisted the devil with the word of God. The sword of the spirit Eph 6. We do not have to argue with the adversary nor entertain the messages from the evil one, just put the word on him let the word **the accurate word in context** do the slicing and dicing for you.

TRUSTING GOD (vs 4:5-7)

- We can trust God’s faithfulness without demanding miracles.
- He takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem. 450 feet above the Kidron valley. “Since you are the son of God...” a subtle way of saying to Jesus you don’t have to die, God will save you. He’s really talking about the death on the cross... Save yourself. You don’t have to die. Putting God to the test.
- We don’t test God, we don’t bargain with God, and we don’t demand a miracle for God to prove himself. We believe God and trust God by faith and knowing what He has already done.
- But Jesus knew who He was and what His mission was. He was to be a sacrificial offering for the sins of mankind; He would have to endure the cross in order to save the world.
- ***“It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God”*** again the word of God.

Hebrew 4:12, *“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any **double-edged sword**, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”*

The accurate in context word of God is our offensive weapon against the evil one. Here Jesus shows us how to do it.

WORSHIPPING GOD (vs 4: 8-11)

- We must acknowledge God alone as worthy of our worship.
- This is the final temptation! What kind of Messiah would Jesus be? Who would Jesus worship? This temptation was to derail Jesus’ mission. If he failed it would disqualify Jesus from being the savior of the world. “I will give you the kingdoms ...”
- Problems:
 1. He is offering Jesus’ authority, power and wealth without the cross.
 2. Jesus already had these things.
 3. Jesus uses His authority by saying, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.”
- Jesus commanded satan to leave, Jesus chose the path of the cross his ultimate mission. Jesus chose to obey God.

We are commanded to worship, serve and obey God. Jesus is showing us how to do this.

This is only round one. Jesus is victorious. But the evil one returns many times to try to stop Jesus but to no avail. Let us remember. What God has spoken over our lives, no devil in hell can change.