

## Jesus' Power Over Temptation

Mark 1:12-13

## The Lord of the Rings



### I. Direction from the Spirit (12)

- "Immediately"
  - Matthew and Luke - the temptation followed immediately after the baptism.
  - Matthew: "then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted" (4:1).
  - Luke: "Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness" (4:1).

### 1. Direction from the Spirit (12)

- "The Spirit impelled Him [to go] out"
- *Impelled*
  - A strong word
  - Lit., "to cast out, throw out, or drive out"
  - Used 3 more times in this first chapter for casting out demons.
  - Cf. 1:34, 39, 43

### 1. Direction from the Spirit (12)

- "into the wilderness"
  - Can't be sure where this was
  - Tradition since the crusades: the rugged, limestone cliffs above Jericho

## The Wilderness



## II. Temptation from Satan (13a-b)

- Mark: "Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days being tempted by the devil."
- "being tempted"
  - Over a period of 40 days, Jesus was being tempted.
  - Cf. Luke 4:1-2 - Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

## The Three Temptations

- 1) Representative of the temptations Jesus faced over that 40 day period.
- 2) The climax of the temptations that come at the end of the 40 days.
  - Matt. 4:1 - "then"
  - Matt. 4:2 - "after he had fasted for 40 days and forty nights, He then became hungry."
  - Matt. 4:3 - "and the tempter came"
  - Matt. 4:5 - "then"
  - Matt. 4:11 - "then the devil left him."
  - Cf. Matt. 4:2 - "After He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came..."

## II. Temptation from Satan (13a-b)

- "by Satan"
  - Mark's favorite way to refer to this enemy of God.
  - OT Hebrew word.
  - 18x in the OT
  - Literarily means "the adversary"
- Cf. "the devil"
  - a description of His person rather than a name
  - "*diabolos*" - "the accuser, the slanderer"

## Jesus' Temptations vs. Ours

- 1) The source of temptation
- Our temptations?
- Two sources:
  - a) From outside ourselves
    - Jam. 1:2-13—circumstances
  - b) From within
    - Jam. 1:13-14
    - 1:14 - "each one is tempted by his own lust"
      - "each one" - temptation is universal (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13)
      - "is tempted" = "is being tempted"; verb tense speaks of a constant reality
      - "his own lusts" - here is the source of our sin and temptation.

## Jesus' Temptations vs. Ours

- 2) The possibility of sinning
  - Jam. 1:13 - God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.
    - "cannot be tempted" = one Greek word
    - Only here in NT & LXX
    - Lit., "untemptable"
    - "by evil" - refers to things that are morally base and degrading
  - Scripture clearly teaches that God is in no way tainted by or tempted by evil:
    - Is. 6:3—holy, holy, holy
    - 1 Sam. 2:2—there is no one holy like the Lord
    - Ps. 5:4—you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil
    - 1 John 1:5—God is light; in him there is no darkness at all
  - As God, Jesus could not be tempted.
  - So how was Jesus tempted?
    - In His humanity.

## II. Temptation from Satan (13a-b)

- "And he was with the wild beasts."
  - Only Mark mentions.
  - That area of Israel was known for:
    - Hyenas, jackals, panthers, and even lions.
  - Intended to accentuate the absolute loneliness and isolation of this place.
  - As well as real danger.

### III. Consolation from Angels (13c)

- Heb. 1:14 - Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
- What service did they render to Christ?
  - Protection: Ps. 91:11-12 - He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.
  - Possibly from the wild animals.
    - Cf. Dan. 6:22
  - Provision: 1 Kings 19:5-7

### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- Ultimately, Satan is the author of all temptation.
  - Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2 - our Lord was tempted by the devil.
  - Genesis 3 - Adam & Eve were tempted by the devil
  - John 13:2 - During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, to betray Him,
  - 1 Th. 3:5 - when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- Satan uses a variety of tools to tempt us.
  - Circumstances
    - Josh. 7:21 - when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."
    - 2 Samuel 11:2 - Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.
    - Pr. 30:8-9 - Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, 9 That I not be full and deny *You* and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.
    - Matt. 4:2-3 - after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry, 3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- Satan uses a variety of tools to tempt us.
  - People
    - Gen. 39:7 - It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."
    - Pr. 1:10 - My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.
    - Pr. 7:6-8 - For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, And I saw among the naive, *And* discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense, passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house.
    - Pr. 16:29 - A man of violence entices his neighbor And leads him in a way that is not good.
    - 1 Cor. 15:33 - Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- Satan uses a variety of tools to tempt us.
  - Perversion of Scripture
    - Matt. 4:6 - [Satan] said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"
  - Our own lusts
    - Jam. 1:14 - each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- All temptations are common to man.
  - 1 Cor. 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man.
- Temptation is not sin.
  - Jesus was tempted repeatedly.
    - 40 days by Satan (Matt. 4:1ff; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:1ff)
    - Other times:
      - His disciples: Mark 8:33 - But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."
      - The Pharisees: Matt. 22:18 - But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?"

#### IV. Instruction about Our Temptations

- You will never be without temptation.
  - Luke 4:13 - When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.
- Our Lord's responses to temptation provide a wonderful pattern for us to follow.

#### Three Primary Applications

- Apologetic Application
  - Jesus' power over temptation is a clear defense of Mark's claims that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.
- Theological Application
  - The time and the location of Jesus' testing both a deliberate comparison and a deliberate contrast.
  - The comparison is with the nation Israel.
  - The contrast is with Adam.
    - Cf. Rom. 5:14, 19

#### Three Primary Applications

- Practical Application
  - 1. He is qualified to be our substitute.
    - Heb. 9:14 - How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
  - 2. He can help us with temptation.
    - a) Sympathy
      - Heb. 4:15 - we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

#### Three Primary Applications

- Practical Application
  - b) Intercession
    - Luke 22:31-32 - "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail.
    - John 17:15 - "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*."
  - c) Help
    - Heb. 2:17-18 - Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
  - d) Pattern
    - In the three representative temptations Scripture records for us, Jesus shows us how we too can have power over temptation.