

Providence Reformed Baptist Church

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 11. Temptation – Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: After His baptism, Jesus is lead into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tested by the Devil before beginning His public ministry. He was anointed with the Spirit, the assailed by the Serpent. The devil's question, "Is Jesus really the Son of God?"

- I. The Players – vs. 1
 - A. Jesus, the Son of God – Matt. 3:17
 - B. The Spirit – leading Jesus according to God's plan
 - C. The Wilderness – a place of barrenness, solitude, and loneliness
 - D. The Devil – the accuser, one opposed to the cause of God
 - E. Temptation – to test, to prove – 1 John 2:15-17
 1. Only when we fail are we lead into evil
 2. Jesus was tested externally; we are tested internally – James 1:14
 3. Jesus had no fallen flesh to allure, but He did have human flesh – He was hungry, tired, and alone
 - F. Angels – ministering spirits (vs. 11)
- II. The Lust of the Flesh – vs. 2-4
 - A. Jesus Fasted (vs. 2)
 1. Abstaining from food for the purposes of prayer and communion
 2. Forty days and nights
 - a. Moses at the giving of the Law – Exodus 24:18; 34:28; Deut. 9:9
 - b. Elijah – 1 Kings 19:8
 3. He was hungry! – Often the danger comes after the suffering, not during – CHS
 4. Comparing Adam and Eve with Jesus
 - a. Garden – Wilderness
 - b. Together – Alone
 - c. All Needs Provided (Food) – Hungry
 - d. Gave In – Withstood
 - B. Doubt God's Word and Eat (vs. 3)
 1. "This is My Beloved Son" – God said
 2. "If you are the Son of God" – the devil said
 3. Boulders to Biscuits – turn these stones to bread – Exodus 16:14-16 (manna)
 - 1) Be Your own provider – use your power as the Son of God to serve yourself
 - 2) Don't depend upon God's provision and timing, take matters into your own hands – "Unbelieving Self-Help" – CHS – Rom. 14:23
 - 3) Note: Jesus did miraculously provide bread for the hungry – Matt. 14:13-21; 15:32-39 – It is not about ability, but obedience and faith
 - C. It is Written (vs. 4)
 1. Christ let loose our only weapon – the Sword of the Spirit – Psa. 119:105; Eph. 6:17
 - a. He quoted from Deut. 8:3 (LXX)
 - b. The Word which made the heavens can certainly sustain creation, and does – Col. 1:15-17
 - c. Jesus overcame with resources available to us!
 2. Give priority to God's will revealed in God's Word over self-gratification, even in essential things – Matt. 5:6; 6:33-34
- III. The Pride of Life – vs. 5-7

- A. The Devil Says, “It is Written” (vs. 5-6)
 - 1. The devil partially quotes Psa. 91:11-12 (LXX), leaving out necessary words
 - 2. “To keep you in all your ways” – the ways you are supposed to go, the ways ordered by God – Psa. 119:168; Prov. 3:5-6
 - 3. The devil makes the promise say something that it never said
 - a. Force God to save you because of who you are
 - b. Throw yourself down, “acting as if God is there to serve His Son, rather than the reverse.” (Keener)
 - c. This is presumption
 - 1) “Believe too much, not too little” (CHS)
 - 2) “We cannot accomplish invisible spiritual work by outward worldly means.” (Boice)
 - B. Jesus Replies, “It is Written Again” (vs. 7)
 - 1. Jesus quotes Deut. 6:16 (LXX)
 - a. Jesus meets a falsely quoted promise with a plain precept, forbidding to presume
 - b. Putting God to the test actually reveals a lack of faith – God need not prove Himself to us!
 - 2. The Analogy of Faith – interpret Scripture with Scripture – “The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself...”
- IV. The Lust of the Eyes – vs. 8-10
- A. Kingdoms and Their Glory – I will make you the Kings of kings (vs. 8-9)
 - a. Influence, power, prestige
 - b. But none of these are the devil’s to give – Psa. 24:1; 1 Cor. 10:26; Rev. 19:15
 - c. Gain the World without the Cross – Psa. 2:7-8; Rev. 11:15
 - d. All Authority – Matt. 28:18 – after suffering in obedience to God’s purposes – Phil. 2:8-11
 - B. Away With You! (vs. 10)
 - 1. It is Written – Deut. 6:13 (LXX)
 - 2. Resist the devil and he will flee – James 4:7
- V. Conclusion – vs. 11
- A. Jesus’ Needs were Met – 1 Kings 19:4-8
 - B. We Face the Same Battles – Eph. 6:12
 - 1. Arm yourself for battle – Eph. 6:14-17
 - 2. Trust God and His Word, not the world and its ways – Josh. 24:15; Zech. 4:6
 - 3. Victory is possible – 1 Cor. 10:13
 - 4. Resist the devil with the Word – “It is written”
 - C. Don’t Ever Forget, Jesus was Tempted for a Reason – Hebrews 4:15; 2:18

Cross References

Matthew 3:17

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

James 1:14

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Exodus 24:18

18 So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 34:28

28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 9:9

9 When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

1 Kings 19:8

8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

Exodus 16:14-16

14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.’ ”

Romans 14:23

23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Matthew 14:13-21

13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. 15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." 16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." 18 He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21 Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 15:32-39

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." 33 Then His disciples said to Him, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?" 34 Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish." 35 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. 37 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. 38 Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

Psalms 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Ephesians 6:17

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Deuteronomy 8:3

3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Matthew 6:33-34

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Psalm 91:11-12

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Psalm 119:168

168 I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Deuteronomy 6:16

16 “You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

Psalm 24:1

24 The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

1 Corinthians 10:26

26 for “the earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness.”

Revelation 19:15

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Psalm 2:7-8

7 “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Revelation 11:15

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Philippians 2:8-11

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Deuteronomy 6:13

13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

James 4:7

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Kings 19:4-8

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" 5 Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." 8 So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:14-17

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Joshua 24:15

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Zechariah 4:6

6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 2:18

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

New King James Version (NKJV)

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.