

Matthew 4:1-11

We started looking a couple of weeks ago at this account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. We are looking at this event from three different angles.

1. The Battle
2. The Weapon
3. The Victory

We have considered the battle.

1. It was a Spirit led battle.
2. It was, and is, a spiritual battle.
3. It was, and is, a serious battle.

Last week we began considering the weapon that Jesus used to overcome in this battle: the Word of God.

1. This should be no surprise to us.
2. Ephesians 6:13-17 *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

3. As we see this text again, we will see Jesus pick up the sword of the Spirit in every temptation.

READ/PRAY

v1-3

1. Jesus responds with Scripture v4
2. Jesus' weapon was the word of God...specifically in this case, as we saw last week, Deuteronomy 8:3.

Jesus takes Satan's temptation and turns it on its head by going to a verse that not only address the temptation, but points to the reality that He is the fulfillment of all the promises of God: ultimately the Gospel of salvation.

1. God called Israel, "my first-born son" in Exodus 4:22. He said of Jesus, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.
2. God brought Israel up out of Egypt...he brought Jesus out of Egypt after Herod died.
3. God caused Israel to pass through the waters on dry land...Jesus passed through the waters when he was baptized.
4. God led the children of Israel around in the wilderness for 40 years. The Spirit led Jesus around in the wilderness for 40 days.
5. He tested the children of Israel to see if they would keep his commandments or not. They failed! He tested Jesus and He proved sinless and perfect.
6. God allowed the children of Israel to go without food...to get hungry and complain. We read in Matthew 4:2 that Jesus became hungry, but he didn't sin or complain
7. God led Israel into the promised land by the hand of Joshua
8. Jesus will open the door for the promised land to you and me through His death and

resurrection!

Jesus takes Satan's temptation and turns it on its head by going to a verse that not only address the temptation, but points to the reality that He is the fulfillment of all the promises of God: ultimately the Gospel of salvation.

In Satan's second temptation we are going to see three things that we need to understand if we are to effectively use the Word to resist temptation.

I. Be Bereans v5-6

1. That is really chilling to me...Satan so eloquently and accurately quoting the Word of God
 - a. Just because somebody quotes the Bible is no guarantee that they are trustworthy
 - b. In fact, it is Satan's pattern to utilize false prophets who quote and misquote Scripture to give the appearance that they are speaking for God

2. 2 Cor 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*
 - a. They don't come dressed like a cartoon devil. They don't come with a shirt that says "ravenous wolf." No, they come like one of the sheep.
 - b. Matthew 7:15 *Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*

3. We need to be on guard against the devil's exegesis of Scripture.
 - a. We need to be Bereans.
 - b. Acts 17:10-12 *The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.*

II. Be Balanced v7

1. Jesus responds to Satan's Scripture with Scripture
2. You can't just grab a verse and use it.
3. You have to read the Bible as a whole!

It is interesting how there is such a balance in God's Word.

1. If it is written, one is justified by faith apart from works of the law, it is also written, faith apart from works is dead.
2. If it is written, God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, it is also written that to as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name.
3. If it is written, Your Father knows what you need before you ask him, it is also written, ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the it will be opened to you.
4. If it is written, to the pure, all things are pure, it is also written, abstain from every form of evil.
5. If 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, it is also written "you shall not put

the Lord Your God to the test!”

We have a tendency to react...to swing the pendulum way over here or way over there. We have a tendency to nose dive into one ditch or the other. We need to keep it between the lines, and if we are to do so, we must know the roads! We must know the word.

You can't just grab a verse and “use it.”

1. You have to see the verse in light to the whole!
2. What is the greatest commentary on the Bible? The Bible!
3. We can't just cherry-pick verses. We must dig and study to know the whole counsel of God.

Luke 6:47-48 *Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.*

1. We have got to learn to dig deep into the Word of God
2. We can't just recognize a few verses here and there.
3. We have to know the whole counsel of God and learn to rightly understand the Word of God
4. That is going to require us becoming students of the Word.

It is as if the Bible judges as worthy to penetrate the depths of its thought only those who take the trouble to compare and harmonize its varied teachings. Adolph Monod

III. Understand Context

You can't just grab a verse and “use it.”

1. You have to see the verse in light to the whole!
2. Look at your verse, and then zoom out and read it in light of the chapter
3. Then zoom out and read the verse and chapter in light of the book it is found in
4. Then zoom out and consider the verse, chapter, and book, in light of the whole.

Jesus responds with Scripture rightly interpreted from its original context.

v7

1. This is a quote from Deuteronomy 6:16
2. What is the context of the whole?
 - a. Deuteronomy 6:16 *You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.*
 - b. What happened at Massah? They tempted the Lord!

Exodus 17:1-7

1. Is the Lord among us or not?
 - a. Is He among us? He brought you out of Egypt with a might arm and an outstretched hand!
 - b. He caused you to pass through the water on dry land
 - c. He has led you in the wilderness with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day.
 - d. He has provided you bread to eat. Is He among us?! What more evidence do you need?!
 - e. You have tested the Lord with your lack of faith.
2. If you are the Son of God...God will catch you. Is he among us or not Jesus?

- a. The prophets prophesied of me
- b. The angels announced my conception and my birth
- c. Shepherds rejoiced, magi paid homage, and a mad king was so threatened he sought to murder me.
- d. John the Baptist pointed me out, God the father proclaimed from above that I am His beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit has descended upon me like a dove.
- e. What more evidence do I need? Test the Lord by jumping from the temple? No.
- f. His word is sufficient.

I choose to believe His Word.