

Life of Jesus

Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-4:11, Mark 1 and Luke 3:1-4:13

1. The Kingdom is Here!

- John appeared “out of nowhere” in the same manner Elijah had long ago and he was dressed in prophet’s garb.
- The Davidic Kingdom was in such a low state of disarray that any announcement that “the Kingdom” had come would cause a stir.
- The Jews viewed themselves as “in” the Kingdom of God because of their relationship to Abraham and all Gentiles were considered “outside” of God’s Kingdom.
- By coming to be baptized, they were admitting they were as unclean as Gentiles and strangers to God’s kingdom.

People Prepared

2. The King is Here!

- It made Him officially known to Israel. It was public. (John 1:34)
- Jesus was clean already but was willing to be identified with and thought of as a sinner. (Heb 2:16-17)
- The Father authenticated Jesus as His Son, confirming his deity. It was ‘dramatic.’ (Matt 3:17)
- The Spirit descended like a dove as Jesus was praying and identified Him to John as the Messiah. It marked His empowering by the Holy Spirit for the specific Messianic ministry ahead. (John 1:32,33)
- It “fulfilled all righteousness.” (Matt 3:15)



Public and Identified

3. Jesus is Tempted by Satan. Matthew 4:1-13



- God initiated His going into the Wilderness.
- Satan came when Jesus was physically weak and hungry.
- Jesus knew how to pray.
- Jesus knew the Scriptures.
- Was Satan in a visible form? Or was it his whispering voice that let Jesus know he was there?




Isolated and Tempted

WHAT IS THE WILDERNESS?

A time of God-initiated trials that brings His people to a point of neediness in order to

- *Teach about Himself*
- *Develop trust in Him*
- *Equip one in their role in God’s kingdom*

Temptation hooks into something we want and nags at us until we give in and sin. Being grievously tempted is not the same as grievously sinning. Sin is called deceptive because it promises something it does not deliver. Only God keeps His promises.

Temptation	Difficulty	Action	"Another time"
Stones into bread 	Test #1 The Food Test "God isn't going to provide what I need. I must take matters into my own hands and get it myself."	Deut. 8:3 "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."	Mark 8:14-21 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread.
Jump from Temple Mount 	Recognition. "You are doing something great and everyone needs to know who you are!" They don't understand.	Deut. 6:16 "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."	John 7:2-4 Jesus' brothers said to him, "No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret."
All Kingdoms of the world 	It was promised to Him by rights—Psalm 2. Didn't have to WAIT or go to the Cross and endure suffering and shame.	Deut. 6:13 "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."	Matthew 6:20-24 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Temptation never finds us when we are strong, but waits for that opportunity of weakness: when we are tired, hungry, lonely, fearful, discouraged—and then it can come through family or even a trusted friend. Jesus told us to pray against temptation: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." He told His disciples to "watch and pray that you enter not into temptation."

"As long as we have an Enemy, we will always be in spiritual danger. How foolish to think that protection from an opportunity to do evil is the result of superior character or our strength to withstand it. Rather, let us with humility ask that there be no path found to the door of our natural desires that would dishonor our Lord and damage our soul."

Jesus had no special favors and advantages as the Son of God, but has been tempted in every way as we are, yet He didn't sin because He relied completely on every Word of God.

Memory verses:

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. .

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