

Theme: As Jesus begins His public ministry, the Spirit propels Him into the wilderness for a time of testing and temptation from which He emerges victorious where Adam and Israel had failed.

## I. Intro - Reading the Synoptic Gospels

- A. The Synoptic Gospels - see together
- B. Important to read each alone to hear their story
- C. Also need to read them together - one story given by God to us; they do not contradict but rather supplement
- D. Mark is very brief on the temptation; we will allow Matthew and Luke to supplement
- E. What is this story about? How does it apply today?

## II. The King Sent To Battle

- A. Jesus is immediately sent to the wilderness
  - At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert Mk 1:12
  - 1. At once - εὐθὺς - immediately
  - 2. Once again note the immediacy and urgency
  - 3. The spiritual high of the baptism and announcement is immediately followed by the testing and temptations of the wilderness/desert.
  - 4. This is often the case for the children of God too.
- B. The Spirit sent Him into the wilderness
  - At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert Mk 1:12
  - 1. Jesus does not merely wander into the wilderness - He is sent there by the Spirit Who descended upon Him at the baptism.
  - 2. 'sent' - ἐκβάλλω - to drive; propel; cast out

- a. Most often used of Jesus driving out demons!
  - b. This is a strong word!
  - c. The Spirit Who rests upon, baptizes, and fills the Messiah-Son-King propels Him into the battle.
3. God is forcing the clash of the Kingdoms, just as He had promised at the time of the fall.
- And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Gen 3:15
- a. The first prophecy of the Messiah-Son-King
  - b. God will put the enmity and force the issue
  - c. So the Spirit propels the Messiah-Son-King forth into the place of battle.

### C. From glory to battle

- 1. Mark is showing that the two events of the announcement of Jesus as the Messiah-Son-King and the testing in the wilderness are intimately and necessarily linked.
- 2. The one immediately follows upon the other and as the Messiah-Son-King is propelled by the Spirit to meet the enemy in his lair.

## III. The King In Battle

- A. Jesus is locked in battle with Satan himself and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mark 1:13
- 1. Mark is brief but clear that the battle is between Jesus and Satan.

2. Some find the idea of a real devil/Satan to be 'primitive' but the Scripture is clear - Satan is real, and he is at war against God. His Kingdom, and His people.

3. Jesus confronts Satan at three key points in His public ministry

- a. At the beginning of His public ministry (Mark 1:12-13; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-3)
- b. Immediately after Peter's confession that Jesus was the Christ (Mark 8:27-33; Matthew 16:13-23; Luke 9:18-22)
- c. The night of His betrayal by Judas (Luke 22:3; John 13:27; Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)

4. But the clash of the kingdoms will be evident throughout Jesus' ministry.

5. The King has come, and He is here to invade the enemy's realm and defeat him!

B. Jesus succeeds where Israel failed

and **he was in the desert forty days**, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mark 1:13

1. The number 40 in the wilderness points to Israel's history - the Law and the Prophets

- a. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai - while Israel was sinning with the golden calf (Exodus 24:18)
- b. Elijah spent 40 days in the wilderness on the way to Mount Horeb - when Israel was turned towards Baal (1 Kings 19:8)

2. Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness, during which they tested God with their rebellion

Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert, <sup>9</sup> where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did. <sup>10</sup>For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways." Psalm 95:7-10

3. Israel's time in the wilderness was a time of failure, where they succumbed to temptation and rebelled against God.

4. But Jesus succeeds where Israel failed! Rather than listening to Satan, He rebuked him; rather than testing God, He trusted Him.

5. I will talk more about this in After Hours.

C. Jesus succeeds where Adam failed

and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. **He was with the wild animals**, and angels attended him. Mark 1:13

1. Mark alone has this note about the wild animals.

2. Some have thought this points to Jesus as beginning the new creation when the wild animals will be tamed and the lion will lie down with the lamb.

3. I (and most commentators) think the animals are pictured not as tamed by Jesus but as a source of danger and a picture of the fall.

4. This is a veiled reference back to Adam and the original temptation, which Adam failed, which led to us being expelled from the garden and at war with creation.

5. Consider the great contrast between Adam and Jesus, the 2nd Adam
  - a. Adam was in a garden paradise, Jesus in a wilderness waste
  - b. Adam was free to eat all he wanted (except from one tree), Jesus is fasting
  - c. Adam is surrounded by submissive animals; Jesus is surrounded by wild beasts
6. The deck was stacked in Adam's favor, but here it is actually stacked in the Devil's favor - but Jesus triumphs!

#### D. Spiritual strength from the wilderness

and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, **and angels attended him**. Mark 1:13

1. Matthew also notes that the angels attended to Jesus at the end of the time of testing and trial
2. This may even include bringing Him food as an angel did for Elijah, but it certainly indicates that Jesus was ministered to and strengthened during this time in the wilderness.
3. Thus Jesus, the Messiah-Son-King, triumphs in battle over the great lion and serpent Satan and is ministered to by the angelic host.  
For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; <sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. Psalm 91:11–13
  - a. Matthew and Luke tell us Satan misused this very passage!

- b. But Jesus the True King receives God's provision through the angels as He treads upon and tramples Satan.
4. The angels minister to Jesus in the wilderness so that the time of testing, temptation, and warfare strengthens Him for the ministry to come.

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Rejoice that our King is victorious in battle!

1. While Israel failed as the son of God, Jesus is victorious as the Son of God!
2. While Adam failed as the king over God's creation, Jesus is victorious as our King!

3. Jesus' obedience has opened wide the doors of salvation for us!

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

- a. We died through Adam's failure, but all who are in Christ are made alive through His triumph!
- b. We who have been shaped by sin are now being refashioned by righteousness through Jesus!
4. Rejoice for your King's victory is your victory as well!
  - a. His victory over Satan ensures your victory over Satan!
  - b. His victory over sin ensures your victory over sin as well!
  - c. And His victory over death ensures your victory over death as well!

5. If you have never embraced Jesus as the King - do so today!

## B. Receive strength from Your King for your spiritual battles

1. This account is primarily about the spiritual war between Jesus and Satan.
2. The main point is to show that Jesus the Messiah-Son-King has met Satan in battle and triumphed!
3. We will continue to see this point throughout the Gospel of Mark.
4. But it can also be applied in our own spiritual warfare and temptations  
Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.  
Hebrews 2:18
  - a. Jesus went through more temptation with greater stakes than we could ever imagine!
  - b. One result of His victory is that He can help us when we are in the midst of temptation and trial.
  - c. Satan tells us we are alone, that we can never win, and tries to malign God's Word, purposes, and intentions for us - but he is a liar!
  - d. Jesus has overcome - and He will strengthen us!
  - e. Jesus' Word is always true, and His purposes and intentions for us are always the best!
  - f. Whatever your trial, receive strength from Your King!

## C. The Table of the King

1. Here we celebrate our King's victory for us!
2. Here we receive strength for our own battle

## The King In Battle

Mark 1:12-13

October 2, 2022

Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: Christology; 2nd Adam; temptation; spiritual warfare; testing and trial; Satan and demons

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thess. 5:23–24

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Mark 1:12–13