



Lesson 2 – June 2, 2020

Jesus was and is God's own Son, who grew up in rural Galilee as a Jewish boy. He was sent by God the Father and given all authority.

Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

John 17:1-2: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

Colossians 2:9-10: For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

If Jesus had—and has—all authority and since he clearly demonstrated his power while on earth by healing all kinds of sickness and raising people from the dead, why did he not use that authority and that power to make other things right in the world?

The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1 – 11: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter

came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Mark 1:12 – 13: The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Luke 4:1 – 13: And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

List the temptations:

1. The temptation to turn _____ into _____.
2. The temptation to _____ from the pinnacle of the temple.
3. The temptation to _____ in order to get all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

How does the temptation of Jesus differ from the temptation of Eve and Adam?

Who was there in the wilderness to witness all this?

Why did Jesus relate this experience to his disciples?

Why wouldn't Jesus do what Satan asked him?

Why did Jesus put up with this temptation in the first place?

Ephesians 2:2: in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

“Satan was tempting Jesus toward the good parts of being human without the bad: to savor the taste of bread without being subject to the fixed rules of hunger and of agriculture, to confront risk with no real danger, to enjoy fame and power without the prospect of painful rejection—in short, to wear a crown but not a cross.” From *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey p. 72

Satan was trying to tempt Jesus to take the easy way out.

Matthew 16:22 – 24: And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to

Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Why did Jesus respond so strongly to Peter?

There was a last time that Satan tried to tempt Jesus to give up the hard way—the cross:

Matthew 27:38 – 44: Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

In all these temptations, Satan was tempting Jesus to abandon the plan of going to the cross. What was Satan's motive for trying to get Jesus to avoid the cross—even to come down from the cross right in the middle of the crucifixion?

What is the difference between Satan's power and God's power?

- Satan's power is _____
- God's power is _____

Would you prefer that Jesus/God used a firmer hand in the affairs of mankind? Would you prefer that he force his will on us?

At the end of the temptation, we read:

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time." Luke 4:13

What do you think the devil was thinking as he departed from Jesus? Had he given up?

What is Jesus' invitation to those who would follow him?

Luke 9:23: And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Here's the good news:

Hebrews 2:18: For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Next Week's Assignment:

Read these passages and note what you learn about Jesus from each passage. Note anything you learn about his physical appearance, his emotional make-up, his human personality. Keep remembering that we are looking at Jesus, the God-Man. If you lived when Jesus was on earth, what would you have noticed about him?

Isaiah 53:1 – 3

Mark 1:40 – 42

Matthew 11:19

Mark 3:1 – 5

Matthew 11:2 – 6

Luke 19:41 – 42

Matthew 9:35 – 37

John 11:34 – 36

Matthew 20:29 – 34

Matthew 26:36 – 38

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