

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS

Class #45 – Tuesday PM JUNE 20, 2006

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In the scriptures we are studying, we have arrived at a point where the Lord Jesus Christ has just been baptized by John at the fords of the Jordan East of Jericho.

The Heavens opened up and the Spirit has descended upon Him as a dove, signifying that He is God’s anointed Son. Remember that a king had to be anointed before he could take the throne.

Immediately following His baptism, the Lord is led into the wilderness, just west of where He had been, to a place with an elevation of 1500-1600’.

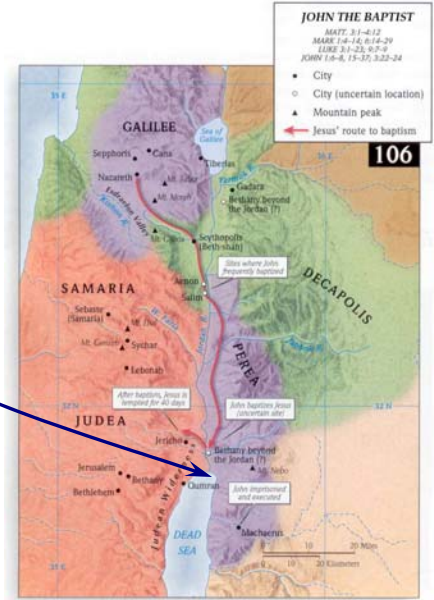
Matthew 4:1

1 Then Jesus (emphasis on the humanity of Christ) **was led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

“By the Spirit” -

The preposition μ plus the genitive μ
HUPO plus PNEUMA

- PNEUMA means Spirit – God the Holy Spirit.
- HUPO indicates ultimate agency
 - God the Holy Spirit was the Agent leading the humanity of Christ.
- Christ had to depend upon the Spirit’s leading, from His humanity, to go where God wanted Him to go.
 - That leading came from **within**.



The same leading [from within] that was available to our Lord is available to every Church Age Believer today!

“Was led up” - - ANAGO

The aorist passive indicative – “to be led”
The emphasis here is on the humanity of Christ being led.

- The passive voice is called a permissive passive. It intrinsically involves volition.
- Therefore, the humanity of Christ is *choosing* to walk in dependence upon God the Holy Spirit to lead Him where He needs to go.

This occurs with us **ONLY** when we are **in fellowship** and are **malleable** to the Spirit’s ways with us.

The Lord is malleable here to go where the Father wants Him to go. Jesus Christ is never out of the geographical will of God.

Think about your life for a minute -

- Do you know that you are living exactly where you are supposed to be living right now?
- Are you malleable 24/7? That is needed for the following to occur?
 - If God wants you to go to the wilderness – you go.
 - No matter where that is or what you are to do – you do it.

Mark's Gospel states in **Mark 1:13** that wild beasts were about Him – lions and tigers and bears. . .

From our perspective you might say, “You want me to go there, Lord???”

I don't see how I'll be supported there. . .

That seems to be a dangerous place there. . .”

The Lord's perspective is, “Yes, I do want you there!”

The Holy Spirit leads the humanity of Christ into the wilderness for a purpose.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

“To be tempted by the devil” – πειράζω - PEIRAZO

- A purpose infinitive meaning “*To be put to the test*”
 - The purpose of being in the wilderness was to be put to the test by the Devil.
 - God the Father, in sending the Lord to the wilderness, provides Him with **privacy** during this period of testing.

When you are tested the only person that can pass the test is you and you cannot depend upon anybody else.

Your resources are the Word of God and your Savior. Your tests are passed in the privacy of your own soul through the application of Bible Doctrine, dependence upon that Doctrine, and the leading of the Spirit.

It is God's will for believers to be put to the test.

²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

“Then became hungry” - στερως – HUSTEROS

- “Then” – after the forty days had passed
- He did not become hungry until the forty days were complete because of the intensity of testing.

In testing, we have a tendency, just as our Lord did, to focus on spiritual things as opposed to physical things. The most important thing in life is spiritual, not physical.

³And the tempter came. . .

“The tempter” - πειράζων - PEIRAZO

- A substantival participle “*The one who puts to the test*”
- Notice that Satan did not show up until the Lord was in a physical position of weakness.
- Satan never plays fair and he is always going to hit you at your worst time.

. . . and said to Him,

- This is normally how many of us are tested. It's through the things that people say.
- Whether or not we are able to maintain fellowship is dependent upon whether we are focused on the Lord or not.

1st Test -

“If You are the Son of God,

- 1st class condition [assumed true for the sake of argument] – Satan knows He is the Son of God.
- Corrected translation is - ***If You are the Son of God, and you are. . .***

. . . command that these stones become bread (plural of **πτος – ARTOS** – “loaves”).

- Hunger and eating is a normal function – God designed that!
- What Satan is attempting to do is to get our Lord to use the attributes of His Deity to provide for His human needs. In essence, he is trying to get Christ to act independent of God’s will, plan, and provision.

Response - (with the Word of God).

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

This is a priority test. What is more important – food or your Father’s Word?

2nd Test - Satan keeps at it, but this time he is going to quote Scripture.

Remember Satan loves Scripture – he loves to misquote it and misuse it.

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God (1st class condition – “and You are the Son of God”), throw Yourself down; **for** [or because] it is written (now Satan uses Scripture Psalm 91 – misapplied), ‘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.’”

Response - (with the Word of God).

7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”

- This is great because Jesus is affirming His deity.
- Who is the Lord Your God? He is.

3rd Test -

8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

- Satan had the authority to give him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- How?
 1. Satan is the *ruler of this world* (John 12:31; 16:11).
 2. He is the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4).
 3. He’s the *prince of the power of the air* (Ephesians 2:2).
 4. The cosmos world is under his authority (1 John 5:19).

Response - (with the Word of God).

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

- In other words, I am not going to worship you. It is you that should worship and serve Me.

Satan is attempting to get the Lord to sin -

- By acting *independently* of the Father, in using His Divine attributes that He had submitted to the Father (in light of *kenosis*).
- This is exactly what Satan did in eternity past when He fell.
- Note the reference to Satan's fall in Isaiah 14:13-14.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NASB95)

¹² "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!

¹³ "But you said in your heart, '***I will*** ascend to heaven; ***I will*** raise my throne above the stars of God, and ***I will*** sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.

¹⁴ '***I will*** ascend above the heights of the clouds; ***I will*** make myself like the Most High.'

How does one make himself like the Most High?

- By acting independently of God and His plan
- By doing what you want to do, rather than what God would have you do
 - We are seduced into this everyday.
 - Independence from God is the way of the cosmos.

What did Satan attempt to do with the first person he tested in history?

- He did the same thing. He tempted man to act independently of God.


Genesis 3:1-5

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"

Note that the testing began with conversation!

² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it ***or touch it***, or you will die.' "

God did not say that . . . 

Genesis 2:15-17

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil ***you shall not eat***, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

The man must be a phenomenal leader in the home.

Return to **Genesis 3:4** . . .

⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

Note the half-truth. Satan knew they would not die *physically* right then and there, but they would die *spiritually* right then and there.

⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened and ***you will be like God***, knowing good and evil."

- How are you going to be like God?
 - You will be independent of Him.

This is Satan’s modus operandi.

- Satan’s tests are designed for us to act independently of God.
 - independent of His plan for you
 - independent of His provision for you
 - independent of His will for your life

That is what Satan is doing with the Lord in the wilderness.

Test 1 - You’re physically hungry and you have the ability to fix that because of who you are, so why not turn these stones into loaves? Just say ***I will!***

Response - Application of the Word of God

“It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

Test 2 - Jump off the cliff because the Bible says that the angels will save you! Just say ***I will!***

Response - Application of the Word of God

“On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”

Test 3 - I have authority to give you all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Why rule the one God has picked out for you? That’s only one kingdom. All you have to do is worship me! Just say ***I will!***

Act independently of the Father’s plan.

Response: Application of the Word of God

“Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ”

What is the Lord doing in every test?

- He is standing firm against the schemes of the devil through applying the Word of God!

James 4:7 -

Submit therefore to God.

“Submit” - ποτάγητε

- Aorist passive imperative ποτάσσω - HUPOTASSO

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

“Resist” - ντίστητε

- Aorist active imperative νθίστημι
- “Take up a strong defensive position”

- What is the prerequisite to taking up a firm defensive position against the ruler of this world?

Ephesians 6:11

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

13 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. . .

“**Stand firm**” – Aorist active imperative of **στ τε** – **STETE** – “*Stand firm*”

. . . HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

Return to **Matthew 4:11** . . .

- What happened after Jesus Christ took up a firm defensive position with the Word of God against the schemes of the devil?

Appealing
opportunity
for something
that God might
not want
you to do!

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STAND FIRM!

11 Then the devil left Him;

Remember **James 4:7**?

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you”

- After Christ applied God’s Word to the tests of the devil, divine provision and blessing were given to Him for doing the will of the Father.
- God will provide. Sometimes you must **wait**, but it will come.

Matthew 4:11b

. . . and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

Psalms 91:1-16

(1) He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

(2) I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

(3) For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence.

(4) He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

(5) You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day;

(6) Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.

(7) A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you.

(8) You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

(9) For you have made the LORD, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.

(10) No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent.

(11) For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.

(12) They will bear you up in their hands, that you do not strike your foot against a stone.

(13) You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

(14) "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name.

(15) "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

(16) "With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.