

Theme: Jesus is the True Son of God Who withstood Satan's temptations and obeyed God to save us and help us to resist Satan.

I. Our New Series - Encountering Jesus

- A. We are reading the Gospels together - seeing the story
- B. We will teach on some highlights in Jesus' life & ministry
- C. This can help us see & understand more clearly
- D. Seeing relationship of baptism and & temptation stories

II. The Baptism of Jesus the True Son of God

A. The Spirit attests to Jesus as the Messiah

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

1. Jesus was baptized
2. The Spirit comes down and rests on Him
3. This is an attestation that Jesus is the anointed Messiah, the long-awaited Son of David.
There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-2
 - a. The shoot/branch of Jesse (David) is the Messiah
 - b. The Spirit will rest upon Him, anointing Him for His Messianic ministry
4. The Spirit is attesting to Jesus and John that Jesus is the Messiah Who was to come.

B. The Father speaks to attest Jesus as the Messianic Son and Servant of the Lord

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

1. The Father testifies that Jesus is His beloved Son
 - a. This is a reference to Psalm 2:7
I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son..." Psalm 2:7
 - b. Psalm 2 is about the Messianic King Who will rule.
 - c. But many had not understood that the Messiah is not just the Son of David but also the Son of God!
 - d. The Father Himself is testifying that Jesus the Messiah is His True Son.
2. The Father testifies that Jesus is the Servant and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17
 - a. This certainly speaks that the Father is pleased with Jesus being baptized and His whole life
 - b. But it is also a quote from Isaiah 42:1
Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Is 42:1
 1. This is the first of 4 "Servant songs" in Isaiah
 2. The Father delights in the Servant!
 3. The Spirit rests upon the Servant!
 4. The Servant will bring justice to all nations!

- c. But the latter Servant songs, especially Isaiah 53, reveal that the Servant of the Lord will have to suffer to bear the penalty for the sins of God's people.
- d. This is why people had not thought that the Messianic Son would also be the Servant of the Lord - surely the Messiah would not suffer and die!
- e. But the Father and the Spirit are testifying that the Messiah is also the Son of God and the Suffering Servant!

3. At His baptism, Jesus, the True Son of God, is anointed with the Spirit for His Messianic ministry and receives afresh the Father's approval and promise to uphold Him through the Suffering the Servant must bear.

C. The Spirit leads Jesus the Son to the wilderness for testing

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2

- 1. Don't let the chapter break fool you - these two stories are meant to be read together!
- 2. The Spirit Who just rested on Jesus now leads Him to the wilderness (Mark has "immediately" - Mk 1:12)
- 3. God is Sovereignly leading Jesus to the wilderness for a spiritual battle with Satan - His first test.
- 4. The word translated "tempted" (πειράζω) means both "to test" and "to tempt". The only difference is in the motivation of the one doing it!
- 5. God never tempts anyone, and the Spirit is not "tempting" Jesus but leading Him into the same test that Adam faced in the Garden and Israel faced in the wilderness.

- 6. But Satan is certainly tempting Jesus to abandon His role as the Messianic Servant and True Son!
- 7. Thus, Jesus begins with a 40-day fast, drawing near to the Father and receiving strength from the Spirit as Satan tempts Him to turn from the path laid out for Him.

III. The Testing of Jesus the True Son of God

A. The three key temptations comprising the test

- 1. Same three temptations in Matthew & Luke
 - a. Stones to bread (vv3-4); jump from temple (vv5-6); kingdoms of the world (vv8-10)
 - b. Mark indicates temptations during the whole 40 days, but these are the key, culminating ones
- 2. Jesus counters with Scripture every time

But he answered, "It is written..." Matthew 4:4
 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written..." Matt 4:7
 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written..." Matthew 4:10

 - a. Jesus responds to the tempter with Scripture - a lesson for us!
 - b. He did not have boxes of scrolls - He had studied and memorized the Word before the temptation - so should we!
- 3. Every Scripture Jesus quotes is from Deuteronomy
 - a. v4 - Not by bread alone - Deuteronomy 8:3
 - b. v7 - Don't test God - Deuteronomy 6:16
 - c. v10 - Worship God alone - Deuteronomy 6:13
 - d. This section of Deuteronomy recounts Israel's time in the wilderness.

4. The issue here is Jesus' identity as God's Son
A voice from heaven said, "This is **my beloved Son**, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

And the tempter came and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God...**" Matthew 4:3

Then the devil... said to him, "**If you are the Son of God...**" Matthew 4:5-6

- a. The Father declared Jesus is His beloved Son
- b. Satan brings this up in the first two temptations
- c. Satan is not really questioning if Jesus is the Son, but rather what that means
- d. Likewise, many temptations we face ultimately are rooted in whether we will remember and walk in our identity as sons and daughters of God.

B. The testing of God's sons

1. Recapitulating the test that God's son Adam failed

- a. This is a recapitulation of the testing of Adam
- b. Where Adam failed, Jesus the True Son and Man succeeds!
- c. More on this idea in After Hours.

2. Recapitulating the test that God's son Israel failed

a. Israel was called God's son

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son' Exodus 4:22

This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Matt 2:15

1. God says Israel is His son

2. Matt. 2:15 links Israel & Jesus as God's sons

3. God delivered His sons from Egypt and through the Red Sea/baptism (baptism - 1 Cor 10:2)

4. Following the deliverance from Egypt and the baptism, God's son is tested in the wilderness

5. This is why Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6-8 - it recounts the testing in the wilderness!

b. Israel failed in the wilderness because they questioned God's promise and motives

1. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16

"You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah." Deut 6:16

- Another wilderness test - they wanted water
- A play on words - Massah means "test" - because they tested God there!

2. This story is in Exodus 17. Notice Exodus 17:7!

And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" Exodus 17:7

- God was testing His son Israel, but they decided to test Him instead!
- They did trust God's Word, promise, and Fatherly heart, but questioned all three - this was how they tested God.

c. The test: embracing the Father's will and way

1. As God's Son, Jesus will not use His power to serve Himself (make bread), but trusts the Father's provision.
2. As God's Son, Jesus will not test the Father, but trusts the Father's promises to Him!

3. As God's Son the Suffering Servant, Jesus will not avoid suffering and even death, but trusts the Father's will and way.
4. Israel failed their test in the wilderness because when the Father humbled them they grumbled, when they did not understand the Father's way the tested God, and when God's will called for difficult suffering they turned to other gods.
5. But thank God Jesus the True Son, the True Israel, succeeds! As the True Son He trusts the Father's will and way!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Encountering Jesus the True Son

1. Matthew wants us to know that Jesus is the True Son, for he succeeds where Israel failed!
2. This is good news for us, for as sons and daughters we often fail, but Jesus has obeyed and suffered for our disobedience.
 - a. Because of His death, He has taken away our sin!
 - b. Because of His obedience, He gives His righteousness to us!
3. This is the most important thing - recognizing that He overcame Satan and gives His victory to us!
4. Look to Him today to become a true child of God!

B. Receiving Jesus' help in our own tests & temptations

Therefore he had to be made like **his brothers** in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For **because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.** Hebrews 2:17-18

1. Notice Jesus is our Brother - we are God's children!
2. He is our High Priest Who made propitiation for us
3. Jesus helps us when we are tempted and tested
 - a. He teaches us how to find temptation with Scripture!
 1. We fight as He does - with God's Written Word!
 2. This is why we are reading the Gospels together - to soak in God's Word together!
 3. We will never resist Satan apart from the Word!
 - b. When our identity is attacked, He reminds us we are the children of God
 1. I spoke about this above - a key temptation!
 2. We need to reject Satan's accusations that try to raise doubts about God's Fatherly love for us!
 3. In Christ, you are God's beloved child - always!!!
 - c. He helps us obey even when it is painful and hard
Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. Matthew 4:11
 1. God provided for Jesus' needs, including bread, in His own time!
 2. This is a lesson to us - God knows what is best!
 3. We are often tempted to think "God would not want me to suffer" or "God does not care if I wait for this" - but that is a deadly trap!
 4. God will provide - in His way and His time!

C. Encountering Jesus At His Table

1. We rehearse the truth of Who Jesus and we are
2. He meets us and gives us strength here!
3. Come and be strengthened!

Encountering Jesus the True Son of God

Matthew 3:16-4:11

February 1, 2026

Communion

1 Peter 5:8-10

Teaching keywords: Temptation; testing and trial; Christology; Israel; Satan and demons

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:8-10

HAVE EVERYONE STAND FOR READING OF THE TEXT

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."⁴ But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple⁶ 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.'"⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the 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 I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."¹⁰ 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.'"¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. Matthew 3:16-4:11