

W @ e k l j P r a d @ r J o u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The Temptation of Jesus”

Mark 1:12-13

JUNE 21 – 27, 2009

THE LORD'S DAY –This week as we return to The Gospel of Mark we will study **Mark 1: 12-13** where we find the events of Jesus in the wilderness after His baptism where He experiences a time of temptation. Although our text is only two verses there is much here for us to learn. Read **Mark 1:12-13**.

Suggestion for prayer: Father, teach me from Your Word this week.

MONDAY –The moment we begin to read our text we run into the adverb which we mentioned before seems to be one of Mark’s favorites. The word *“Immediately...”* tells us the timing of Jesus’ temptation. Directly after he was baptized, and the testimony had been given of His position as the *“beloved Son”* (**verses 9-11**) we find the very same day, the Spirit *“drove Him into the wilderness”*. The Greek word translated *“drove”* is the word *Ekballo* which is a very strong word meaning “to drive out, to send out, and to cast out”. It is the word used in Scripture for the casting out of demons. This does not mean that Jesus was forced against His will to go there, but that He was compelled and led or sent there. The Spirit of God, for important purposes, caused him to go. As we will see, Jesus here takes an initial step in His ministry toward the overthrow of the work of the enemy and His binding of the “strong man” (**Mark 3:27**). This matter of Jesus being *“drove”* out to a place where He is tempted brings up another point of concern we must address. The Scripture is clear that God tempts no man (**James 1:13**), rather that each one is tempted when we are drawn away by our own evil desires (**James 1:14**). We are tempted in our fallen nature to strongly desire the satisfaction of our selfish, sinful hearts by engaging in whatever sin will seem to “satisfy” us. But Jesus had no sin nor fallen nature, so what do we make of the statement that God The Holy Spirit *“drove”* Jesus out to be *“tempted”*. God wasn’t tempting Jesus by “enticing Him to sin” but rather as the New Testament also points out concerning *“temptation”* or *“trial”*, God was putting Jesus to the test as it were. Jesus was about to enter a moral period of probation and as the second Adam, He would not fail the test. Read **1 John 3:8**.

Suggestion for prayer: Father, let me never say when I am tempted that I was tempted by You. Give me power Holy Spirit to put to death the deeds of my flesh.

TUESDAY –Our text tells us that Jesus was *“there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan...”* Much has already been and could still be said concerning the *“forty days”* of Jesus in the wilderness but we will just mention a few interesting factual details for our study. Matthew records, *“And when He had*

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Sat							
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M a t t e u @ M 6: 9-13

fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry” (Matthew 4:2). Moses and Elijah each fasted for the same length of time. Moses, as he was on Sinai (**Deuteronomy 9:9**) receiving the Ten Commandments from God, and Elijah in the wilderness as he ran for his life from the threats of Jezebel (**1 Kings 19:1-8**). Many possible parallels and much symbolism could be in view here but suffice to say, these two men were men of God whom God was preparing to use for His Divine purposes. Jesus appears to also be spending time alone with His Father in a period of spiritual meditation and prayer, for the preparation for His work, and as one commentator suggests, during that intense time “it is hardly probable that he felt the need of food. At the close of this period nature began to assert her demands, and hunger was keenly felt.” Regardless of when exactly Jesus “felt” hungry it seems an understatement to merely say He was hungry without emphasizing the incredible degree to which He must have physically been craving nourishment. We will see that it is in this extremely vulnerable physical state that Satan comes to tempt Christ.

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, thank You for Your great concern and faithfulness in fulfilling the work that You were sent to do for me and all of Your people.*

WEDNESDAY –We see in the temptation of Jesus a comparison and contrast that I alluded to earlier in the study. That would be the comparison and contrast between Adam, the first man created by God, and the “second Adam” Jesus Christ, an idea that is found implicitly in the New Testament (**I Corinthians 15:45, Romans 5:12-17**). Before we look at some details concerning that comparison let me point out our text again, where Mark mentions Jesus was “*with the wild beasts...*” By this little touch, Mark informs the reader of the loneliness, depressing isolation, and terrifying situation to which our Lord went in the wilderness. In keeping with the thoughts of “*beasts*” and Jesus out in the wilderness with them, perhaps in this we may also see more than just the terror of the scene, but possibly the fact that the beasts recognize their King, the coming of Messiah. We also read in the text that “*the angels ministered to Him*”. It is interesting to note that Satan quotes a passage to Jesus at His temptation concerning angelic protection from God and the passage he quotes is **Psalm 91:11-12**. Interestingly, in **Psalm 91:13** we then read of promised victory over wild beasts. A final thought on this wilderness setting: “You see how the Spirit led him, not into a city or public arena, but into a wilderness. In this desolate place, the Spirit extended the devil an occasion to test him, not only by hunger, but also by loneliness, for it is there most especially that the devil assails us, when he sees us left alone and by ourselves. In this same way did he also confront Eve in the beginning, having caught her alone and apart from her husband (Chrysostom).

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, You are the only One who could live the perfect life the law demands. Thank You for Your grace given to me an undeserving sinner.*

THURSDAY – In this comparison of Adam and Jesus we see that both men underwent a test that was not merely for their benefit, but also the benefit of others. Adam was what is referred to as the “federal head” of mankind.

Federal Headship, in a broad sense, is the position that the male represents his descendents. Adam represented the entire human race. He was the federal head of mankind in that he represented mankind in the fall. We were “in him”, in his seed. When he fell, we fell “in him.” Likewise, Jesus is our federal head in salvation. He represented his people on the cross. **1 Corinthians 15:22**, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” There in the Judean wilderness, the second Adam faced a test which He passed by His righteous, perfect obedience. It is that very perfect righteousness that He imputes to His people, to cover them (**Genesis 3:21, Isaiah 61:10, 1 Corinthians 5:21**) and He also takes their punishment (**Isaiah 53:4-5**). He does this by graciously granting us faith (**Ephesians 2:8**).

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You for clothing me with Your righteousness Jesus. Help me always trust You alone as my source of right standing with God.*

FRIDAY –In comparing Adam and Jesus, I must point out here that I am in no way suggesting that God offered forgiveness to mankind if they could “keep” His law to earn or merit life. Adam could never had earned or kept right standing with God by his works. Yes it is true that mankind was commanded to obey God, but God does not command men to “earn” their forgiveness by law keeping. He did command us to obey Him and He gave us His law. But the law does not and can not save; rather, it shows us our total inadequacy to please God on our own, it reveals our sin to us by our failing to keep it perfectly, and it points us to a Savior outside of ourselves. There was only One who ever kept God’s law perfectly and He is the Divine Son with whom God the Father is “*well pleased*”. Read **Romans 3:19-26, Galatians 2:16**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, I could never be right in Your sight by my works. Thanks for the Gospel and Your righteousness Jesus which is mine by faith.*

SATURDAY – More is to be seen by way of contrast than by comparison between Adam and Jesus. The first Adam fell and failed to obey God while in the midst of “paradise”, the Garden of Eden. Lush and glorious where the surroundings, yet he sinned. Jesus is in the midst of deprivation and loneliness in the wilderness and He remains faithful. Adam had a helpmeet, Jesus was alone. Adam had a feast, Jesus, a forty day fast. Jesus’ body was physically screaming for food and yet He endured the full measure of onslaught from Satan. Finally this week we must see the main point of this testing of both Adam and Christ. The main point is the very same point and issue that Satan brings against people today. The issue is this, “Do you believe God?” Not, do you believe in God, but do you believe God? In the Garden, Satan asked, “Hath God said?” (**Genesis 3:1-7**) In the Judean wilderness he said, “If You are the Son of God...” Jesus had just heard the declaration from the Father that He was the “Beloved Son”. Now Satan attempts to undermine God and His Word and entice Jesus to fail to trust and believe God. There is so much more gold here and Lord willing we’ll cover the rest tomorrow morning in our sermon. Read **Matthew 4:1-11**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, Son, and Spirit, Glory be to You Holy Trinity!*