



Unlikely King

29-Sept: A kingdom Opposed
8-9th

Series Summary: The People in Jesus' time had all of these expectations of who the Messiah would be and what kind of kingdom he should usher in. But He was not the Messiah they had in mind. Instead, Jesus and his Kingdom were better, and here is why.

Big Idea/Question: They wanted Jesus to defeat their enemies. Instead, Jesus showed them who their true enemy was.

Get Them Talking: What is an unfulfilled expectation that you have had? In other words you expected this _____ but you got that _____?

Today we see that the people in Jesus day had expectations of him that did not align with what Jesus' mission and teaching.

VIDEO TEACHING

They wanted Jesus to defeat their enemies, in this case, their Roman oppressors. Instead, Jesus showed them who their true enemy was.

Matt 13:24-25 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away."

Plan of the enemy: If you have ever gardened you know that you do not have to sow weeds, they pop up all on their own. But Jesus was showing us that Satan (the enemy) is opposed to God's good work among us.

Matt 13:26-30 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. **27** "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' **28** "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' **29** "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Are We abandoned? Based on this passage you may be thinking this means that God does nothing to oppose Satan. He has left us to struggle against him on our own. But that could not be further from the truth. Instead, **God has given us the power through the Holy Spirit to stand up to the temptation of sin and the enemy. And Jesus has given us an amazing example** of what it looks like to stand up to the temptation of the enemy.

Matt 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." **4** Jesus answered, "**It is written:** 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. **For it is written:** "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." **7** Jesus answered him, "**It is also written:** 'Do 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 splendor. **9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" **11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

How did the enemy try to tempt Jesus?

Leader Note: Two key tactics that Satan used were outright lies or half-truths (vs 8-9) and twisting or misusing of Scripture (vs 6). This is important to see because Satan still uses the same tactics today.

(8-12) What lies can the enemy tell us today to tempt us to disobey God?

What is the difference between temptation and committing a sinful act? Why does it matter that we understand that these are two separate things?

Leader Note: It is so important that students understand that we will be tempted to sin. However, the temptation to sin is not sin. We know this because Jesus was tempted yet he was sinless. When we are tempted we have the ability to stand up to that temptation through the power of the Holy Spirit and have victory. **For further study** you can read about how the Apostle Paul build out this truth in Romans 8:1-17:

How did Jesus respond to Satan tempting him? What tactics did he use? How is this an example for us today?

Leader Note: One of the key ways that Jesus withstood temptation was by responding to Satan's lies and half-truths with Scripture (vs 4 & 7). This is an amazing example for us.