

Sermon #6: The Showdown

02/21/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 3:21-4:13)

Today's passage includes the baptism of Jesus, His genealogy and His temptation in the wilderness. For times sake, we will only touch on His baptism (3:21-22) and temptation (4:1-13).

1. How do you see all three Persons of the Trinity involved in the baptism of Jesus?
2. Consider how Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1 relate to this baptism scene and what the Father says about Jesus.

Immediately after Jesus' baptism, He is led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

3. Verses 1-2 state that Jesus was "filled with the Spirit" and that He was being "tempted" by the devil. What can this teach us about temptation?
4. After fasting for 40 days, how does the devil immediately tempt Jesus?
5. How would you generalize this type of temptation for people in general?
6. What aspect of our human desires does the devil seek to tempt in Jesus in verses 5-6?
7. What aspect of our human desires does the devil seek to tempt in Jesus in verses 9-11? (Note: this would have been a very public location & such an act would have gathered great public popularity).
8. How do you see Christians today facing these types of temptation?
9. What is consistent about every response Jesus has to temptation?
10. What can we learn about the fact that the devil quoted Scripture to tempt Jesus?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Read Hebrews 4:15. *Jesus faced every type of temptation we do, yet without sin. Where Adam and Eve gave in to temptation leading to all humanity being born into sin; where Israel, being God's representative people, gave in to sin as they wandered in the wilderness and failed to fulfill their calling as God's representatives on earth; Jesus succeeded. Jesus accomplished for us what we have failed to accomplish throughout history. Jesus became the true and greater Adam to adopt us into a better humanity. Jesus became a true and better Israel to welcome us into a better representation of God's people. Yet, Jesus was treated as a failed Adam and a failed Israel. He was punished for our sins so that we could be rewarded for His righteousness.*

- *How does seeing Jesus' resolute resistance to temptation – all of which He deserved – for you and me, only to be crushed for our sins, move you to further resist your temptations for His sake and others?*

MAKING IT MATTER

1. If you have been baptized after professing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, then the words the Father said to His Son are also true of you. How does that impact your identity in Christ knowing that God calls you His beloved son or daughter and He is well pleased with you?
2. Of the three types of temptations Jesus faced, which one would you say you are most tempted by? Why?
3. As a group, look up Scripture that could be effective in helping you resist the types of temptations you regularly face & read them together.
4. How would the impact of our church increase in our community if we were better equipped with the Spirit and the Word of God to resist temptation?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.