

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

#### **'Behold your King' - 4**

#### **Matthew 4 v1 - 11**

Key Questions with respect to the temptations - Where? When? How?

Prior Question - Why do we have this record of the temptations of Jesus? Remember, the disciples weren't there - and so Jesus would have had to specifically tell them about what happened here. The answer is in Heb 2 v18 & Heb 4 v15. Like us - Jesus was tempted, but unlike us - Jesus didn't give in to it. Application - If we are going to resist temptation then it's this Jesus that we need to look to and learn from.

#### **1. WHEN WAS JESUS TEMPTED?**

Note how the passage begins, with the word "Then...." In other words, the context is with respect to what has just happened. See - 3 v13 - 17. What happened at Jesus baptism as God the Son went into the Jordan to be baptised, pledging Himself to be our Saviour? See - v16 - 17. As heaven was opened, hell was then opened and the devil came out to try and stop what Jesus had pledged Himself to do.

Application - See - 1 Cor v13 - 13 & Matt 26 v41

*'When you are all the more flushed with success, then you are all the more vulnerable to failure.'*

#### **2. WHERE WAS JESUS TEMPTED?**

See - v1. But why a desert wilderness? Surely there is a contrast here between the failure of the First Adam - tempted in a garden paradise, and the Second Adam - tempted in a desert wilderness.

Problem - Why are we told that "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil"? Is this something that God actually does? Yes - it is! See - Matt 6 v13. How are we to understand this? The key is in the word 'tempt' ('peirazo') which is a morally neutral word, that is - it can mean 'to test' (or 'to prove') with the aim of bringing about good, or 'to tempt' with the aim of bringing about

bad / evil. Whilst the devil's aim was to tempt Jesus, God's aim was to prove Jesus - to prove that He was the sufficient Saviour who was going to be able to deal with the problem of sin. Key Point - to be a sufficient Saviour, Jesus had to be without sin!

Important - Jesus wasn't on the back foot as he fended off the attacks of the devil - He was on the front foot!

*'O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.'*

Note - It was only after this (this victory over temptation to sin) that Jesus then went north to Galilee to begin His gospel ministry. In other words - He had proved Himself to be a sufficient Saviour.

### **3. HOW WAS JESUS TEMPTED?**

Notice that Jesus was tempted both with respect to His person and His work.

#### **A. WITH RESPECT TO HIS PERSON, JESUS WAS TEMPTED TO DOUBT THE WORD OF GOD**

Remember the context - "This is my Son, whom I love...." Notice what the devil says (v3a & v6a) - "If you are the Son of God....." It's what the devil always does - he tries to get us to doubt our sonship. See - 1 Jn 3 v1a. Jesus didn't doubt that He was God's Son - and neither was He tempted to prove it. See - v5 - 7.

#### **B. WITH RESPECT TO HIS WORK, JESUS WAS TEMPTED TO DISOBEY THE WILL OF GOD**

Remember the context - ".....with him I am well pleased." Here is Jesus the Saviour / King. Key Question - How would this Jesus come to be the King of an everlasting kingdom? See - Is 42 v1a & Phil 2 v8 - 11. It was to be - through suffering. What the devil says, is - 'There must be another way.' See - v8 - 9. Application - Serving God, even if it means taking up the cross, is a joy and a delight because we have the promise that in Jesus kingdom we will one day reign with Him.