

Luke 4:1-13

Well, good morning, it is wonderful to be here with you all this morning.

We will be in Luke chapter 4 this morning.

Before we get into the message, let us pray....

Let us remember Luke's account so far...

Jesus has come into this world, through a humiliating birth, grew up in poverty, and served His earthly parents until the age of 30, He grew up learning as a youth all the same lessons any other human would have to learn.

Only at His birth, did the heavens testify and prophecies abound.

But the spectacular soon forgotten by days gone by.

Life would be difficult for the Son of God, as His earthly family grew, and responsibility consumed Him.

But as the Son of God grew into His adult years, His calling would become so much clearer.

All His Sabbaths in the synagogue, the feasts in Jerusalem, and in all areas of His life God's Word was speaking to Him.

And at the age of 30, a prophet, Jesus' long lost relative, John the Baptist was stirring up the countryside with his powerful preaching and ministry of baptism, it would be there at the banks of the

Jordan River, Jesus would fully understand His mission as the Son of God.

His earthly preparation was almost complete, and John testifies of the Greater Prophet, Jesus, as the Holy Spirit and the Father join in the announcement.

And it was there Jesus first identified with sinners in His baptism.

Remember it was not His own sin that He was being baptized for.

But He would in fact take our sin upon Himself on that horrible cross.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

So Jesus was confirmed in His ministry at His baptism.

Now this morning we are going to see how Jesus identifies with us in our temptation.

Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus, God's Son, came to this earth, and forsook His throne in heaven, because of God's great love for humanity.

In our story God's Beloved Son was here now to begin the ministry of reconciliation that the father of the human race severed us from.

The first Adam, in that beautiful Paradise, full of food, and abundant luxury.

There in the vast Paradise of God, Adam and his wife were given one command, a way to obey, and a choice in proving their own love back toward God.

The scriptures show it is through obeying God we declare our love for Him.

1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

So Adam had the choice to obey, as God gives every man and woman a choice between obedience which brings life and disobedience which brings death, because God desires a genuine love in response to His love toward us.

The first Adam, faced his testing in the most favorable of conditions, he had plenty, and lived in a lush garden. And there he failed in his temptation, and fell to Satan's scheme.

It is the same scheme Satan uses on us today, as we will see in a moment.

Today, because of Adam's fall, Satan is referred to in 2 Corinthians 4:4 as the god of this age.

Jesus in John 12:31 called Satan the ruler of this world.

The world is under his persuasion.

And Satan's system is clearly defined for us in God's Word...

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world (under the dominion of Satan) — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

And Satan used the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to take down the First Adam and his wife.

Remember the fruit was good for food, the lust of the flesh, and the tree was pleasant to the eyes, lust of the eyes, and the tree was desirable to make one wise, the pride of life.

And Satan has had a good old time with mankind ever since then, using this same tactic, and yet as we will see this morning, the Son of God will be the victor, as Satan will finally meet a Man he cannot lure with these tactics.

As we move on to the Second Adam's temptations, we will see a huge contrast to that of the First Adam, as Jesus will be tempted in hunger and weakness, in a miserable wilderness.

And His victory will solidify His identity as the Son of God, and the only Perfect and Spotless One who could in fact die for the First Adam's sin and betrayal.

Now, in Jesus' temptation we will have a template for our own victory over Satan's schemes.

Understand the enemy is exposed here, and we are given the path to Victory in Jesus' example.

We read now, in verse 1 of Luke chapter 4...

Satan Tempts Jesus (Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13)

4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

Understand this first about the Temptations of Christ, that the Spirit, who guides and teaches, was the true orchestrator of this scene.

Jesus was empowered by the Spirit, He was filled with the Spirit, and led by the Spirit to face the Great Adversary.

The setting for this battle of the ages was not in a green Garden of plenty, but in a barren wilderness, full of stones big and small.

Tradition puts this in the uninhabited region that ascends to Jerusalem from Jericho. Phillips p. 91

The site having jagged peaks of limestone and the mountains full of caves, and a place of complete despair.

Picture of Mount of Temptation – Quarantania

It would be here that for 40 days the enemy of humanity and of God would tempt Jesus in all ways that we would be tempted.

But as Adam, had a full belly, and abundance to face this Adversary, Jesus will be empty physically, and with nothing but rocks surrounding Him.

Luke the doctor records that Jesus ate nothing for forty days, and it would not be unlikely for Jesus, who is fully human to be looking upon those stones, and His mind seeing the loaf like shapes, and wishing they were bread.

Now the forty days of testing would have been miserable, but the last day is the only day recorded for us in the gospels.

Dr. Luke tells us an important factor here, that Jesus was hungry.

Understand that when fasting this long, the hunger is said to go away after the 5th or so day.

I have never personally done this, I have only experienced a few days, and at that my hunger became so vicious and cantankerous that it was becoming an unholy thing.

And I have never been spiritual enough to testify to this fifth day scenario.

Now, after the fifth day, when the hunger goes away, when that hunger returns, it is imperative that you get something to eat, because you are in fact starving to death.

The Doctor here informs us Jesus was hungry, Jesus was starving to death on day forty.

And it is when Jesus is at His weakest in His flesh, that Satan gives his greatest assault.

And what a wonderful High Priest we have, that would be willing to subject Himself to such weakness, in order that He could identify with us, and give us hope in our own weakness.

Heb. 2:18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Understand this very clearly, there is no pain or turmoil that you are going through that our God as not touched Himself personally.

In all points, He was tested as you and I are.

Let's look at how this confrontation goes now, the first tactic of Satan is the Lust of the Flesh!

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

First, before we discuss this temptation, please consider this.

Jesus since He was 12-years-old knew that He was to be about His Father's business.

After Jesus' confirmation into His ministry, and the Father's own declaration of love for His Son, Jesus solely looked to fulfill the Will of His Father in heaven.

Jesus would step in stride with His Father's will, and would do no more or no less than what His Father revealed to Him.

Jesus explained this in **John 8:28-30** Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." 30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

Remember it was His Father's Spirit who led Him into this wilderness experience.

God has not revealed at this point that Jesus' fast was over, and Jesus was literally starving.

And Satan plays on this, "Your Father who just declared His love for You, has You here hungry, Jesus."

“Surely if You are God’s beloved Son, and You have God’s miraculous power, Surely He would not mind you making one of these stones, which are already in the shape of a loaf of bread, into bread?”

Satan in his deceitfulness is trying to get Jesus to separate His physical, fleshly needs from His spiritual. He is trying to lure Jesus into surrendering His flesh to give into hunger.

After all, we have to eat, we have to survive, we have to live, and life comes from meeting the demands of our physical needs.

Understand even in our eating, we are to bring glory to God...

1 Cor. 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

I have heard and even used many excuses to cave in to the demands of the flesh, and we must beware of this tactic of the enemy to separate our lives into compartments.

Today in our culture, Satan has masterfully been successful at separating our lives into different sectors.

I hear the argument, that politics should not mix with religion.

That our secular life should remain distant from our spiritual life.

Our education and career should be separate from our religion.

Or our hobbies or sports is another category, altogether separate from our faith.

But understand true faith in Jesus is Supreme over all areas of our lives.

The Apostle Paul proclaimed in **1 Cor. 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.**

Everything must be in subjection to Christ, the Head of the Church.

His Word, should set the course for every decision and life choice before us.

Christ in politics, Christ in our diet, Christ in the way we spend our money, Christ is our Hobbies and sports, Christ should be at the forefront of everything in our lives.

It is better for me not to play sports, because I find I am not very Christian when I do, it is better for me to abstain altogether.

Us men especially have a hard time with this separating our lives into compartments, we believe going to work is our time, and our duty, providing for our family is separate from our Faith.

But in fact it is our because of our faith that we work, and work as unto the Lord.

So many in their great separation, excuse their lack of spiritual discipline to their duty to work and provide.

But they go hand in hand, our whole life is to be subject to our faith.

You see when we understand Romans 12, when Paul declares **Rom 12:1 that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**

And we lay down our whole lives, and when we do this we find that it is impossible to compartmentalize Jesus into categories of our lives, but He is Lord of all of our life.

That means even when you go to vote this November, take Jesus with you, and vote Biblically, He is Lord of your life, even in your political beliefs.

There are some great resources that help you sort through the different politicians and props that will be on the ballot, Pastor Joe will soon be posting links for you to research and be informed and really to check everything with the Word of God.

But our faith is supposed to be involved in the political arena, and Lord knows, the Christians really need to step up this next election, and vote.

But we see here in the first temptation of Christ, Satan tries to separate the physical from the spiritual.

But Jesus' whole purpose is to do the will of the Father, and if the Father wills that He be hungry, then He must trust that above even His own circumstances.

Although Jesus has been given unique power, He must not use it to His own desire.

It may have been easy for Jesus to make a stone into bread, and be energized for the rest of the fight with Satan, but God wills He remain weak here.

Church, Satan loves to strike when we are weak and tired, and temptations abound when these times of fleshly weakness come about.

We must consider here that the easy way is not the right way for Jesus.

And many times in our seasons of weakness, Satan will be quick to offer you easy and fast solutions, and you must understand that easy is more often than not the wrong choice.

In our workplace, when the boss is not around, and you can get away with slacking, understand you are not getting away with it.

But Satan will be right there, you deserve it, just take a break, no one will know, your boss makes plenty of money off of you.

Satan at every turn, in our weakness strikes with His offers of the easy road.

Your marriage is struggling, holding on by a thread, and the fighting is exhausting you.

Satan immediately sends that worldly thinking friend.

“You do not deserve this; here is a number to a lawyer that helped me, Oh you need to do this for yourself.”

And that seemingly is the easy fix, but God’s Word tells you to honor your vows and that is painfully hard, and any hope of healing will be hard work and sacrifice.

Every time we are at our weakest, no matter the scenario, Satan is swift to offer his solution of easy.

But, easy should not direct our steps, the Psalmist said in **Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet**

And a light to my path.

And the example Jesus puts forth here in His Great weakness, is He relies on God’s Word, as He quotes Deuteronomy 8:3 where Moses told the nation of Israel **Deut. 8:3 ...that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**

It really seems Jesus was considering and meditating on Israel’s 40 year wondering in His own 40-day wilderness experience, as at every reply to Satan Jesus quotes the Book of Deuteronomy.

Jesus did not use His power for selfish purposes, but He subjected Himself completely to the will of God.

God's Word was Jesus' most important nutrient, and He knew God had destined Him for the cross, and even in His suffering state here, He trusted that death would not take Him before His time.

Now, we see our victory comes by utilizing what Paul called **Eph. 6:17... sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

Now we see here the Word of God is to be used above our emotions above our feeling, and above our senses.

This means we must be in the Word of God daily, to battle the wiles of the devil.

Church, this is not a legalistic mandate, or plea to make you feel guilty, but it is literally a matter of seeing through the deception of Satan.

He has masterfully led mankind away from God through this tactic of separating your life into compartments and separating you from God's Word.

If he can keep your life busy with your other compartments then the priority of the Word diminishes, for which your weapon has been neutralized.

Jesus prevailed here, and Satan will not try to allure His fleshly appetite again, Jesus will not fall for that.

So the devil tries his other very successful tactic, the lust of the eyes...

5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Because we are dealing with two supernatural beings, this scene is possible.

Satan in a moment of time was able to show Jesus from the height of the mountaintop all of his authority. Satan without objection from Jesus, declares all the powers in this world are under his control, and he boasts that it is within his authority to give them to whoever he wishes.

Now if you remember in our study of Revelation, in chapter 13 there will one day be a person who accepts this offer of the dragon, that serpent of old, called the devil.

Rev 13:2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like

the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

It was at the fall of man, that we handed dominion over to this rebellious cherub.

And for the time being, he is ruling this worlds systems and governments.

I know this is a difficult concept for many zealous Christians.

But simply look at our government, just this week as they try to work within one of the most Biblically based governments ever established on this earth.

We see very clearly, within this system, which for the most part the founders of our republic were God fearing men.

But yet, still we see the fruit of the ruler of this world who comes to kill, steal and destroy.

Peter said of God's challenger that **1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.**

Jesus said of the devil that **John 8:44 He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

And we can easily assess our own government, and see the true ruler is the author of confusion and lies.

We Christians like to romanticize sometimes our government, and we sometimes only choose to see what we want to see.

But on both sides of the isle there is corruption and deceit.

We saw this month one side using the pain in many women in our nation who have been raped and taken advantage of sexually, and that side exploiting the hurt in woman and using it as a tool to create unrest.

It is deceptive, and the media, like a Jerry Springer show is just salivating over all the drama.

I heard one CNN reporter yesterday, declaring these woman feel that Judge Kavanaugh is a rapist, they feel he is a liar, and they feel, they feel, but never once did they say they know.

And feelings are once again lifted above reason.

But the other side of the isle does not look much better at times.

We don't know Justice Kavanaugh at all, only what the media tells us, but I hear Christians defending him as though they went through school with him and know him personally.

“I like beer, I drink beer, and I enjoy beer.” Is not coming from the lips of a God fearing man, as we are trying to defend his Christian virtue.

The scriptures says... **Prov. 20:1**

Wine is a mocker,

Strong drink is a brawler,

And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

The bitter fighting back and forth just looks so foolish.

The architect of it all is Satan.

And sometimes we are blinded by our romance with one side of the political spectrum, we do not look honestly at who is behind it all.

You know I remember Ronald Reagan was celebrated as the Christian's hero, finally a man of faith and conviction, and you know, that if you study even that man, who we hold at a high esteem.

There is a New York Times article from May 4th, 1988, that spells out that Reagan was heavily influenced by astrology and the alignment of stars. [https://www.nytimes.com/1988/05/04/us/white-](https://www.nytimes.com/1988/05/04/us/white-house-confirms-reagans-follow-astrology-up-to-a-point.html)

[house-confirms-reagans-follow-astrology-up-to-a-point.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1988/05/04/us/white-house-confirms-reagans-follow-astrology-up-to-a-point.html)

He was superstitious and his superstitions guided much of his decision making.

But we are willing to overlook these kinds of things for the greater good.

Please do not place your trust or give your heart completely to any politician or judge.

Do not be blinded by your striving to prove yourself right, that you endorse a man as our hope.

It seemingly is a great thing for our nation, that the Supreme Court is shaped the way it is now, but they are still just men and women, and man's heart cannot be trusted when Satan is the true ruler of the powers of this world.

Of course we do our part, we hope and pray for those men and women, but please don't be duped into thinking man is our hope.

We want to vote our Christian values, yes, but please never look to a politician as a savior.

We are waiting for a Righteous King, that is where our hope should truly be.

The best man, is only a man, and man cannot be trusted.

The only man, that this world will ever truly embrace as a savior, will be the one who finally takes Satan's offer, and he is given Satan's authority.

Remember Scripture warns in **2 Cor. 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.**

Remember politicians are crafty, and if Satan can transform deceptively into an agent of light, so can a man, to garner your vote.

The governments of this world are Lucifer's for now.

Now of course, we the people are privileged to participate, but do so with a Biblical understanding, that even the Great American Experiment is under the sway of the evil one.

Also, understand we need to pray for our leaders, especially the ones who claim to be Christian, because in all reality, if they are truly redeemed, they are trying to lead and work in a satanically influenced arena.

For now, the kingdoms and powers of this world are under the influence and sway of evil, there is no doubt, that is biblical and true.

But way back at the fall of man, there was a promise given to an opposing Kingdom to that of Satan's.

God told the serpent that he would find himself at war with the Seed of a Woman, **Gen 3:15**

15 And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel."

Jesus was this promised Seed, and for those of us who put our faith in Him, we find ourselves in direct opposition to the fallen kingdom of the serpent.

Now we look at the persecution of Christians in this world, we can even assess our own lives, and see that our faith has made us outcasts, and we cannot fit comfortably in the system of Satan's dominion.

But understand, Jesus here rejected the easy path offered to Him.

Jesus' true mission was to become the sole ruler of this world, and that day is surely coming, but Satan was trying to get Jesus to bypass the cross.

Understand what Satan was offering was what Jesus came for, however, it was not the plan of His Father in heaven.

We will see Jesus in turmoil in the Garden of Gethsemane at the end of His ministry because of God's Will and the cross, and the temptation that Satan brought to Him here, would truly be a test for the Messiah.

But once again the Messiah reaches past His emotions and His fatigue, and grabs His choice weapon, the Sword of the Spirit, and He swings, **Deut. 6:13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him!**

Jesus would not take the easy path here, and chooses the cross that God has laid out before Him.

He chooses God's plan instead of His own comfort and ease.

Church this is our template, and once again, two paths will continually be before you, the easy path or the right path.

How can we worship a Savior who endured the cross for us, and not choose the cross for ourselves?

Jesus said in...

Mark 8:34-38 "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Jesus had the option to skip the cross here, but our redemption would be incomplete.

He endured the shame of that miserable cross for us, and in this life, we can expect the cross as well.

Last week, at the men's conference there was a man here who did not like the teachings going forth.

He did not like that we were teaching the men that they would endure hardships in this life.

He declared on his own authority, that he did not believe those parts of the scripture that spoke of suffering in this life, but chose to only believe the victorious parts of the Christian life.

This is another example of our culture of self, taking authority over God's Word; we do not have the authority to pick and choose the parts we want to believe.

Jesus plainly explained...

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Listen 2 Tim 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Church this is Satan's world, and he hates the people of faith, he hates you.

Please know you can find all over the country churches that will tell you, that life is supposed to be grand, and we are guaranteed a good life, and they will promise you, if you just have enough faith you will be rich and successful.

But that is not Biblical truth.

You see our hope is not in this place, we are promised a day in the future where Jesus will take the title deed back from Lucifer, and Jesus will crush all rebellion.

And it is in this future Kingdom where we will enter into the perfect Kingdom, where Satan's dominion will no longer have sway over the hearts of man.

But please, do not be ignorant to the fact, that every day you are in a spiritual battle, a fierce battle, a strategic battle, where our enemy is relentless against our lives, and he will continually put the easy path, that leads to destruction before you.

It is a wide path, a popular path, and many there be that take that path of no opposition.

But the true path in this life is a narrow way, through a narrow gate, that is difficult that leads to life in the end.

Do not forsake your future reward for easy now.

Fight, and fight as Jesus did here, full of the Holy Spirit, and swinging the Sword that God has entrusted to us.

This is a good message for you young people, Satan uses the culture to dangle the easy bait in front of you.

To avoid any kind of sacrifice and hard work, he fills your heads with dreams of grandeur, and tells you anything that is difficult is not worth it.

But in our Kingdom, work, and striving are unavoidable.

Anything worth having will come through work and the sweat of your brow.

Understand the easy way is the wrong way, learn even now to see through this scheme of Satan, fill your heart with God's Word so you can effectively tear down the strong holds of Satan in your life.

So Satan is defeated once again by God's Word, and He will try his final, and usually very successful tactic, the pride of life...

9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Now Jesus has been using the Word to fight against the devil.

But through this last encounter we see something very interesting about our enemy.

He knows the Word of God as well, and of course, he is a liar and a manipulator, so he twists scripture, or gives only a part of God's truth.

The devil misquotes Ps. 91:11-12, which says in the King James

Ps 91:11-12 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Satan left out "in all thy ways"

You see Satan is trying to misdirect Jesus from the will of the Father, and is using scripture to benefit Jesus and not God's will.

Satan took Jesus upon the pinnacle of the temple, overlooking the Kedron Valley, and is tempting Jesus to do the sensational, apart from God's will.

"Use your power, and the promises of scripture to benefit yourself Jesus."

"Think of the crowds that will be drawn to You by doing this incredible act."

"You are in fact God's Son, surely He would protect You."

Now this is a subtle ploy that Satan still enacts today.

He will present scripture in part to you, or misquote the application, and many of Satan's charlatans are under the sway of this method.

They never preach the Holy Text in whole, and kind of go searching through, to find a scripture that will appeal to your flesh.

And they twist the meaning, and then in order to distract you they perform thrilling entertainment to amuse you and keep you coming back for more.

If Satan would have kept reading that Psalm, the very next verse speaks a clear message to the this sly serpent.

God would keep His Son in all His ways, and Jesus would follow God's will, and not the shortcut provided by Satan, and the fuller promise to Jesus is this...

**Ps 91:13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample
underfoot.**

Jesus will one day defeat Satan once and for all, and Jesus knew the scriptures, enough to know the counterfeit.

Jesus swings back His reply, and He uses **Deut. 6:16**
"You shall not tempt the Lord your God"

Jesus did not need theatrics to build His ministry, and He would not be persuaded off the path God has laid out before Him.

Jesus would be kept in all Thy Ways.

Church, the counterfeit is out there today, whole ministries built upon theatrics, as the Word of God is diminished and presented deviously.

The church today is hurting because of this biblical illiteracy.

Bible teaching, and a hunger for God's Word is diminishing.

Today entertainment and incomplete doctrine, work together with human emotion and feelings to drive people's decisions.

This me centered idea of what the church is supposed be is killing the church.

People rarely flock to Truth, but instead to get their ears tickled.

Now, yesterday in our daily manna, the Prophet Jeremiah spoke for the Lord and declared in, **Jer. 6:16**

Thus says the Lord:

"Stand in the ways and see,

And ask for the old paths, where the good way is,

And walk in it;

Then you will find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

God is calling His church today to walk in His Word, it is literally a matter of life and death for the people of God to survive in this satanic system here on earth.

The church was founded on the Word of God, it was grounded in its truth, and that kept hope at the forefront of their minds, even under such heavy tribulations and persecutions.

And the church has to return to this old path, it is a path, that our movement Calvary Chapel was built upon.

We read the Word, teach the meaning of the Word, and apply it to our lives.

The founder of the Calvary Chapel movement, Chuck Smith wrote in Chapter 6 of the Calvary Chapel Distinctives, “It is important to remember that we don't

Generally see immediate or spectacular overnight results in a Calvary Chapel. It takes time to whet and develop the appetite of the people for The Word of God. It takes time for them to grow. For most Calvary Chapels that are planted in a new area, it takes a couple of years to lay the foundation, prepare the ground, plow the hardened soil, work the soil, and plant the seed in the fertile soil. Then you have to wait. The seed doesn't bear fruit overnight. The seed has to grow and to develop. But, eventually, it begins to bear fruit.”

And this is the path we are committed too here, simply teaching the Word of God, simply.

We refuse to fall into the temptation of creating theatrics to draw a crowd.

I listened to our women's Bible Study this Thursday, and I rejoiced at what I heard, Julie is simply teaching God's Word simply.

And that is the vision for all of our ministries, we could do all kinds of things to draw women to Bible Study, but we want the draw to be Jesus, and a relationship

with Him, by knowing Him through the truth of His Word.

You women are blessed by the Bible teaching in your study.

We believe it is only by equipping God's people with the knowledge of God's Word, that they will be able to spot the counterfeit that is so prevalent in our culture today.

Jesus withstood the temptations of Satan by using God's Word, and notice, Jesus used the Old Testament, even one of the Books that many today have forsaken, Deuteronomy.

The whole council of God is from Genesis to Revelation, and it all must be considered, not bits and pieces that are choice morsels and tasty treats.

We need the meat and veggies to have a well-balanced diet.

The cults of the world are built upon Satan's strategy of using tidbits of scripture to build a false foundation.

If you want to succeed, if you want victory in your Christian walk, it will not come apart from knowing God's Word.

You cannot rely on last week's quiet time with Jesus to sustain you; it must be a daily exercise to be in His Word.

Know the true Word, counterfeiters in the banking system are combatted, not by the agents studying the counterfeit, no, they study the real bills, and know the details so thoroughly of the real bills, that if anything incomplete or wrong comes across their path, they immediately identify it.

Jesus gave us the template this morning on how to battle our enemy, the Word of God has exposed the devil's scheme's for us.

He tries to lure us through the lust of the flesh, to get us to look to pleasure and feeding our flesh, and he also uses the lust of the eyes, he puts before you fanciful paths, that avoid hardship and feed selfishness, and lastly, he uses the pride of life, the spectacular, to get people to praise you, to look to you, to worship you.

Is this not the heart of social media, to present the best you, to promote your ideas, to get people to give you self-worth through the likes and comments?

The pride of life works so effectively in the heart of man.

But not us, because this morning, Satan has been exposed and we are equipped to see his strategy.

Understand this is his world for now, don't put too much stake into this place or its system.

Please know that although this material world is under the devil's power.

There was a point in history, that an act was done, that allowed for anyone who desires out of this fallen system can come, and partake in another glorious Kingdom.

We are told in Colossians that Jesus Christ...

Col 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Christ disarmed the stronghold of the enemy in a person's life, and the only way out of this fallen system is by believing upon the One who came and made a spectacle over our enemy.

The One we wait for patiently, who will come soon, and will take everything back that sin and evil has destroyed.

Church it may not feel like we are winning at times, but do not be mistaken, the final victory is assured to our Kingdom.

If you are not a part of this Kingdom of God, come today, be saved from the system of darkness and bondage that currently has this world under hypnosis.

Come to Jesus this morning, and see clearly the deception we live among.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be empowered to live for Christ's Kingdom.

There will be men up front during this last song, who desire to pray with you, please, come forward, and come into the Kingdom of Light.

For us Christians we need to understand, our main purpose in this life is to bring as many as we can with us into the Kingdom of Light.

Now maybe you have drifted from this mission, perhaps this morning you are in bondage to the wiles of the devil, as you have learned of his ways, you find yourself duped again.

Your career has taken precedent over your calling to serve God, or your pursuit of pleasure has consumed every motivation in your life.

Perhaps you have found this morning, you realize you are attempting to take the easy way through life, the shortcut of compromise to this world.

Repent this morning, come up during this last song and get prayer.

Understand, we have a great opportunity before us every week to come to the Lord in prayer.

In fact, we are instructed to come boldly in prayer to the throne of God.

Take advantage of this time this morning, defeat Satan by starting in prayer, being filled with the Spirit of God, and knowing God's Word.

Whatever your prayer needs are this morning, please come forward, we desire to minister to you.

Heb. 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This morning we saw Christ identified with us in our temptation, He did so, so He could overcome, and give us a way to overcome.

Please come to Him boldly this morning.