

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 1



“Repent”

Study: Matthew 3:7-10, Luke 3:7-9

Reading: Luke 13:1-9, Luke 2:37-47

Memory: I John 4:7-8

Early on in my marriage, I struggled with some bad habits and thoughts that were not good for my marriage. As the temptation to sin became stronger and stronger, I found myself acting on some the wrong thoughts I was having. I would often make excuses for it and didn't see how serious my actions were until I had a talk with my wife about it one day. She helped me see that the things I was involved in weren't as “little” as I often made them out to be, but were something that I needed to repent of. It was a great turning point in my life and my marriage as I repented to God. He was ready and willing to forgive me. He just wanted me to see my sin as He saw it.

Today, we are going to see how the message and theme of the Bible is repentance. It is something that is often overlooked in our society, but it is a vital part of salvation.

What Does the Bible Say?

The crowds coming to see John became larger and larger and soon he raised the curiosity of the Pharisees and Sadducees. These were the religious leaders of the day who made up much of the governing body of Israel. These groups were somewhat like two different political parties who had different opinions about Old Testament passages and how they should be interpreted. When John saw these religious leaders, he rebuked them by calling them a “brood of vipers.” They were not coming to John to hear the message, but were like a bunch of poisonous snakes attempting to put a stop to John since he was pulling people away from them. He warned them that there was wrath coming upon them. The only way to escape the wrath of God was to repent. John told them that they needed to bear the fruits of repentance as a sign that they have truly repented. Repentance is like taking a u-turn, choosing to go the opposite direction. John was not teaching that are saved after you do a bunch of good deeds, but was describing how repentance is more than just words. When you truly believe in something, it will be evident in our actions. The religious leaders were very good at saying what should be said without truly living it out in

their own lives. They needed true repentance which was a turning from themselves and a turning to God.

One of the great things that hindered the Jewish leaders from truly repenting was their religious heritage. They often claimed that since they were physical children of Abraham that God was forced to deliver them from eternal damnation. John told them that God was not forced to spare them from wrath because of their physical blood line. He described how God could turn stones into people and make them His children if He wanted to. What God wanted was genuine, heart felt repentance (Mat 3:7-9, Luk 3:7-8).

John went on to describe how God was like a the keeper of a fruit or olive grove who had started chopping the trees down who would not bear fruit. This was a direct rebuke to the religious leaders who didn't bear the fruit a child of God should bear. This illustrated the immediate need for repentance and how God was at work already among the people for their hard hearts (Mat 3:10, Luk 3:9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you repent? One of the great themes of the Bible is repentance. In the Old Testament, when the children of Israel strayed away from God, God continually challenged them to repent. What is repentance? It is a turning. Turning from what you were doing back towards God. It first involves a recognition that doing things your way is not right, but that you need to do things God's way. This is not all that is involved in repentance. Admitting a mistake or error is much different than repenting of sin. Too often, people admit that they are doing wrong, but never repent of the wrong they are doing. When you repent, you first agree with God about how wicked and awful your sin is. Then you take actions and turn from the sin you were doing. The reason that many people don't repent is that they don't view their actions as wicked, they just view their actions as a little wrong or even "not right." This is why John challenged those coming to Him to bring fruits of repentance. It was not that they needed to work their way to salvation in order to be baptized, but John emphasized that baptism was not just another act of doing something. It was simply an outward sign of the inward cleansing that a person needed to do in order to be a part of the kingdom of God. The challenge for you today is not to just view sin as bad or wrong, but to repent from your sin and turn to God to do things His way.

Matthew 3:7-10

What had John been doing (vs 1-6)?

Who came out to see what John was doing (vs 7)?

What role did these men play and the religious society of those days?

How did John address them (vs 7)?

Why do you think he called them this?

What question did John ask (vs 7)?

Why do you think he asked this?

****It appears that the Pharisees were coming to John expecting their baptism to be another spiritual work to help assure them of their place in heaven.*

What did John tell them they needed to do (vs 8)?

How does this reveal that repentance was much more important than baptism?

****Both were very important, but baptism without repentance is just a meaningless outward work that does nothing to get a person closer to God. The baptism of John was meant to be a symbol of repentance.*

What did John tell the religious leaders not to trust in (vs 9)?

Why do you think the religious leaders thought this?

What powerful statement did John make in verse 9?

What do you think his point was?

What did John say God was doing (vs 10)?

How was this a warning to them and to us?

“Repent of Selfishness”

Study: Luke 3:10-14

Reading: Luke 10:25-37, Acts 2:42-47

Memory: I John 4:7-8

What Does the Bible Say?

Though the Pharisees and Sadducees were not that interested in repenting, the crowd was. When John told them they needed to repent, they wanted to know what repentance looked like. John didn't hesitate to tell them what they needed to do. By no means was John giving an exhaustive list of what repentance was, rather he was giving some practical examples for those who were listening. The things that he mentioned are outward acts that would reveal an unselfish heart (vs 10).

John told those who had more money than others to share what they had with the less fortunate. The theme of giving to the poor and helping out the poor is a constant message from God and marks the lives of those who know the heart of God. This was a practical way that they could see their sin, the sin of selfishness, and turn from it by giving to the poor and needy (vs 11).

Some tax collectors who had come to John asked the same question, wondering what they needed to do to show the fruits of repentance. He told the tax collectors not to collect more than they were supposed to. There were a few different types of tax collectors in Bible days, and becoming one was often like buying a franchise. The tax collectors would collect a certain amount for the government and then charge a fee for their services in tax collecting. Many times these fees were an overabundant amount that the people would be forced to pay, making the tax collectors rich. A fruit of their repentance would be to stop charging more than they should and to run a fair and honest business (vs 12-13).

Soldiers from the Roman army also came out to hear the message of John. This reveals the great fame and power of the Holy Spirit that was on the life of John. These soldiers wanted to know what they needed to do in order to show fruits of repentance. John told them to stop taking advantage of people and forcing them to pay more money than they needed to. Most likely, these soldiers helped enforce the tax collectors fee and did it for a fee of their own. They might have also charged others to protect them, a job which they were already paid to do. Simply put, they were taking

advantage of others because of their position (vs 14).

In summary, real repentance was not a list of things to do. John told the people he spoke to what they needed to repent of by revealing their great selfishness to them. The first step to repentance was seeing where they had sinned and recognizing how wrong it was. They had to be willing to change this in their lives in order for real repentance to take place. John was not concerned about how many people he baptized or the number of followers he had, but was concerned with the heart of those who followed him.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see the common denominator in all the things John told the people they needed to do? Each one of these things had to do with loving their neighbors. Jesus helped clarify this later on when he said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27). All sin is based on selfishness and choosing to love yourself more than you love others. John wanted to help open the eyes of the Jews to see how selfish they were living and how different that was from the message of God. He wanted them to first see their sin, choose to act differently and live out the choices they made. Take some time today to examine your heart to see if there are any sins that you need to repent of. Look at your level of selfishness this past week and ask yourself if you have overlooked the needs of others because you would rather have it yourself. If you don't take time to think about it and let God reveal it to you, this selfishness can often go undetected.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for those who have treated you with selfless love.*
- * *Ask God to show you areas where you need to repent.*
- * *Praise Jesus because He has the power to cleanse your sins.*

Thought for the day

What did the crowds want to know after they heard the message of John (vs 10)?

****John preached repentance, but many of the people did not know what they needed to repent of. The religious leaders had taught many of the people many selfish attitudes and ideas, and they were not fully aware that what they were doing was wrong.*

What issue did John address in verse 11?

****Tunics were like long garments worn under the coats next to the skin.*

Do you think John was teaching that you could only possess one of each item rather than two? Explain.

****I believe that most of the time we see lists in Scripture they are not given to be exhaustive lists that need to be followed by checking off the boxes. They are general principles or ideas that we should follow. They are examples of what living godly looks like.*

How are you personally sharing with others who are in need?

What was mentioned in verse 12? What did they want to know?

What did John tell them would show that they were truly repentant (vs 13)?

What other group of people are mentioned in verse 13? What did they want to know?

What did John tell them to stop doing (vs 14)?

Why do you think he told them to stop doing those things?

What were they to be content with (vs 14)?

Take a moment to look at the things listed in these verses that showed people were truly repentant. Are there any of these things in your life you need to repent of? Explain.

“Not Elijah, But Like Elijah”

Study: John 1:19-28

Reading: John 3:22-36, I Corinthians 3:1-10

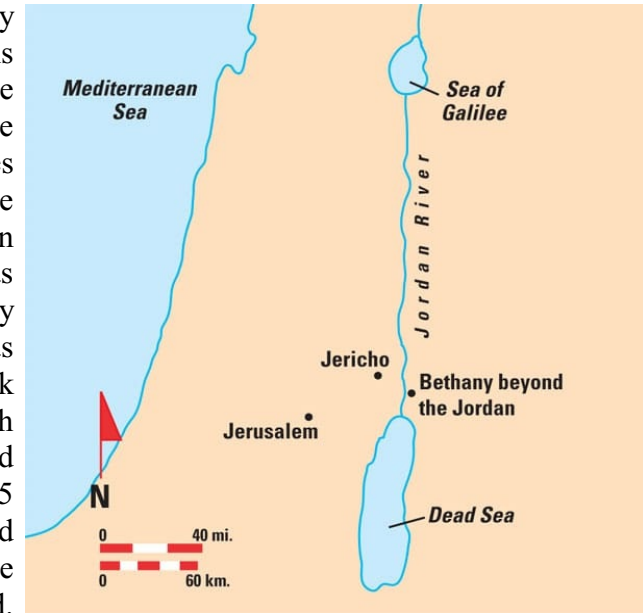
Memory: I John 4:7-8

What Does the Bible Say?

As John’s popularity rose, so did the questions about who he was. The Jewish leaders sent some of their priests and Levites to John to inquire if he was the Messiah. John clearly stated he was not the Christ. They wanted to know if he was Elijah who had come back from the dead. Though this may seem like an odd question, Malachi 4:5 stated that Elijah would come back before the great day of the Lord. Though John was this Elijah, because he was a type of Elijah, he was not actually Elijah. He was a messenger sent by God to announce the coming of the Messiah. When he was asked if he was a prophet, he told them he wasn’t. Who he was was the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3 because he was “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” He was the one who was to prepare the way for the Christ (vs19-23).

In verse 24, John the apostle indicated that these men had been sent by the Pharisees. This phrase implies that they were out to trick John the Baptist and weren’t sincerely seeking an answer. They were really trying to trip him up and cause him to make an error so they could accuse him of something, just as they often did to Jesus (vs 24).

The leaders questioned him about his authority to baptize since he was



Bethany Beyond the Jordan was where John was baptizing

not the Christ, nor Elijah nor one of the prophets. The religious leaders in those days wanted complete control over what was going on and they didn't want people like John to come in and mess up their system. John deflected the attention that was given to him by saying the all he did was simply baptize with water. He was a nobody spiritually, but was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah who was coming. John described how he was not worthy to even loosen the latch on the sandals of the One who was coming. This was a message to the Pharisees which indicated that John was not out for personal gain (as they were), nor to gain a large crowd. He was a humble servant of God who was simply doing his duty as a messenger to let everyone know the Messiah had come (John 1:25-27).

We are told that these things took place at "Bethany beyond Jordan." The exact sight of this location is not known, though recent excavations give us a pretty good idea where this was. There was a Bethany located a few miles from Jerusalem, but the phrase "beyond Jordan" indicated the city was on the other side of the Jordan river (the east side). This location is probably close to the top of the Dead Sea (John 1:28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you live with the same humility that John lived with? Here was a man who was drawing large crowds to come and hear his message, yet when questioned about his authority and power to preach, he deflected attention from himself and put it on Christ. He described how he wasn't worthy to even unlatch the sandal of the Messiah. This was a sign of great humility and he understood who he was before God. You would do well to learn from this example because it is easy to think of yourself as better than you really are. It is easy to think your human power and abilities are something, but in actuality you are not worthy to loosen the sandals of Jesus. It is when you come to this place in your life that you can begin to truly be used by God because it will be Him and not you.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Ask God to help you have the same type of humility that John did.
- * Praise God for fulfilling His plan to clearly point to the Messiah.

Thought for the day

How did the apostle John began this paragraph (vs 19)? Why do you think he started it the way that he did?

Who were the "Jews" of verse 19?

****This word used in this way normally points to the religious leaders of that day.*

Why did they ask John (vs 19)? Why do you think they asked him this?

Why do you think John make absolutely clear in verse 20?

Why do you think they asked if he was Elijah (vs 21)?

Why do you think they asked him if he was "the Prophet" (vs 21)?

****Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18 described how God was going to raise up a prophet who would be like Moses.*

What did they demand that John tell them (vs 22)?

Why do you think they demanded this from him?

Who did John say he was (vs 23)?

What did verse 24 clarify about the people questioning John? Why do you think this was clarified?

What did they ask John in verse 25? Why do you think they asked him this?

Who did John say was now in human form (vs 26)?

What did John say when he compared himself to the Messiah (vs 27)?

Where did these things take place (vs 28)?

Why do you think John took time to say where these events were happening?

“Holy Spirit Baptism”

Study: Matthew 3:11-12, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:15-18

Reading: John 16:1-27

Memory: I John 4:7-8

For a few years, I would pick up free or very cheap treadmills and part them out to make some extra money. While doing that, I realized the great need for power tools. When taking a treadmill apart, the use of my power ratchet and power screwdriver were very helpful. Often, I don't realize how much easier they make my work until the battery would run out. When I had to take all the screws or bolts out manually, things took much longer and made my task arduous and difficult.

Today, we are going to see how the Holy Spirit is similar to having a power tool. When we try to do things on our own, it is normally much harder and takes much longer (if we can do then at all), but when we access the power of God we have living inside of us, it is amazing how much easier it is to accomplish the tasks that God has called us to.

What Does the Bible Say?

As we saw yesterday from the book of John, John the Baptist had declared that he was not the Christ. Matthew, Mark & Luke all make mention of this as well and expound on what John had declared. They recorded how John the Baptist declared that Jesus was much greater than he was and that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. This indicated that Jesus would do much more than perform the outward ceremonial cleansing like John was practicing. John had limited power because he was just a man, but Jesus was the Son of God who ultimately would die and leave so that the Holy Spirit could come and indwell believers. This was extremely significant because up until that time, those who followed God had to go to the temple where the presence of God dwelt. After Jesus, the presence of God would dwell in every individual believer (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:15-16).

The coming of Jesus would not be great for everyone. Just as Simeon had told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would lead to the rise and fall of many (Luke 2:34), John the Baptist stated that Jesus was coming to bring judgment as well as victory. He was described as coming with a winnowing fork. This was a fork used to help toss grain into the air so that

the chaff would blow away. After wheat was harvested, they would take it to the threshing floor (normally a place of higher elevation and stronger winds) and would beat the wheat heads to knock the grain loose. Once this was done a winnowing fork, sort of like a pitch fork, would be used to toss the wheat into the air. The chaff, useless material, would blow a way, but the wheat which was much heavier would fall to the ground.

The wheat represented those who chose to follow God from their hearts, while the chaff represented those who would not repent. The coming of Jesus was not going to be good for many people since they were like that chaff who would be destroyed because of their stubbornness and selfish pride. Unless they repented, all those who heard the message of John or were even baptized by John would be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity (Matthew 3:12, Luke 3:17-18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you living each day with a realization that you have the presence of God living inside of you? Do you understand the great significance and importance of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? It is so easy to go through your day without realizing this and taking complete advantage of what you have. You have the presence of God living inside of you. God Himself through the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart and gives you the power to live for Christ. Though this is a great truth, some believers fail to access that power because they want to do it on their own. You can easily allow the Holy Spirit to become a spectator as you try to accomplish God's plan on your own. As you go through your day today, take time to meditate on the great gift you have through the Holy Spirit. Be sensitive to His presence and desirous to ask Him for help.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for indwelling you.
- * Ask God to help you yield to the Holy Spirit.
- * Praise God because He can be everywhere at once.

Thought for the day

Luke 3:15-18

What do you think the people were expecting (vs 15)?

****Even a casual read of the Old Testament reveals that the prophets talked over and over about the coming Messiah. It has been over 400 years since the last great prophet of Israel and the people were more and more waiting to hear from God. Much of this was because they were expecting someone to physically deliver them from the oppression of the Romans who ruled over the land of Israel.*

What were many people wondering (vs 15)?

Why do you think they were wondering this?

What did John say he baptized them with (vs 16)?

What would Jesus baptize with (vs 16)?

What does this reveal about the importance of baptism with water compared to the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Why do you think John said that Jesus would baptize with fire (vs 16)?

****The context of verse 17 indicated that this was most likely a reference to the refiners fire or a fire of judgement. Remember that John had rebuked the religious leaders who had come to him for outward physical baptism, but didn't want the baptism of repentance.*

What would the Messiah be ready to do (vs 17)?

****Jesus would make it clear who truly followed God and who followed the Jewish rules and regulations for their own selfish gain.*

What did John make clear about the plan of the Messiah (vs 18)?

How does this reveal that the Christ was going to be more than just a physical deliverer?

Why do you think John made reference to a never ending fire (vs 18)?

“The Lamb of God”

Study: Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:29-34

Reading: I Peter 1:13-25

Memory: I John 4:7-8

What Does the Bible Say?

It has to be assumed that Jesus and John the Baptist had some knowledge of each other. After all, they most likely would have attended the Passover feasts together while they were in their teens and twenties. Since Mary and Elizabeth were relatives, you would think they would have spent some time together. Yet, from what John the Baptist declared, it appears that he did not fully know that Jesus was the Messiah until he baptized Jesus. The day before Jesus was baptized, John had been talking to the religious leaders describing how he was not the Messiah. When John saw Jesus, he declared that Jesus was the “Lamb of God.” This was a very significant phrase because it indicated that Jesus was not coming to be king at this time, but was coming to be a sacrifice so He could take upon Himself the sins of the whole world. John declared that Jesus was the One he had been talking about. Jesus was the One who was greater than he and the One who he was preparing the way for (John 1:29-31).

Jesus had traveled from Galilee to the Jordan for the specific purpose of being baptized. John did not feel worthy to baptize Jesus because He understood that Jesus was so much greater. Though John wanted Jesus to baptize him, Jesus insisted that He be baptized by John. Though baptism symbolized repentance, and Jesus had nothing to repent of, he wanted to relate with the common sinner and set the example for those who would choose to follow Him (Matthew 3:13-15).

Jesus went into the water to be baptized by John and when He came out, Luke tells us He was praying. We are not given an explanation of this, but perhaps praying was associated with the whole process of John's baptism. It was at this point that “the heavens were opened” and the Holy Spirit came down from heaven. It is not clear what is exactly meant by the heaven's being opened, but all of the Gospel writers state that the spirit came down like a dove would descend from the sky and landed upon Jesus. This was some type of physical manifestation that revealed that Jesus was now filled with the Holy Spirit and was ready to start His public ministry. When God said that He was “well pleased” with Jesus, it wasn't like a

father saying, “you have done a good job.” The statement was not emphasizing the performance of Jesus, but who Jesus was. He was stating that Jesus was His son that He greatly loved.

A voice from heaven made this clear emphasizing that Jesus was the Son of God. The emphasis showed that God’s favor was on Jesus and the fact that God described Him as His Son made it clear that He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. The Old Testament prophets declared that the Spirit of God would be upon the Messiah (Psalms 3:7, Isaiah 42:1) and this was the public announcement from God declaring who Jesus was. Luke recorded that these things took place when Jesus was around thirty years old (Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, John 1:32-34).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The fact that Jesus was the Son of God is very central to the whole Gospel message. Almost everything that you have read about in the Gospels up to this point is giving evidence that Jesus was the Messiah. This is not by mistake because He needed to be the Son of God in order to be able to be the “Lamb of God.” Though minds can’t grasp the deep truths of God becoming man, when you take time to ponder what happened and why, it should overwhelm your mind. It should cause you to rejoice in your salvation and the relationship you can have with God because of Jesus Christ.

Also to be noted from today’s reading is the example of baptism that Jesus set for you. Though He did not need to repent, He chose to be baptized in part to be an example for us to follow. The example of baptism was followed by the disciples and they practiced it with their followers. It is not something that produces salvation, but in Scripture it accompanies the choice to become a child of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for sending His son for you.
- * Ask God to help you live in the fullness that Jesus can give you.
- * Praise Jesus because He is the “Lamb of God.”

Thought for the day

Matthew 3:13-17

Where did Jesus travel to so He could be baptized (vs 13)?

What did John do when He saw Jesus wanted to be baptized (vs 14)?

What did John declare about his need (vs 14)?

Why did Jesus say He wanted to be baptized (vs 15)?

What do you think that meant?

****It appears that Christ was identifying Himself with sinners. The act of baptism also appears to be a picture of the death, burial and resurrection that was to come.*

What happened when Jesus came up out of the water (vs 16)?

What do you think it meant that the heavens opened up?

How did the Holy Spirit come down (vs 16)?

What do you think this looked like?

What did a voice from heaven declare (vs 17)?

John 1:29

What did John declare when he saw Jesus coming towards him?

What was this a powerful statement?

What did John affirm about Jesus (vs 30)?

What did John mean that Jesus came before him (vs 30)?

What did John say he baptized (vs 31)?

What did John declared that he had seen (vs 32)?

What did Joshn want to make absolutely clear (vs 33-34)?

“By Bread Alone”

Study: Matthew 4:1-4, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-4

Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Memory: I John 4:9-10

Personal discipline is not always easy and it is very difficult to maintain on a regular basis. Over the years I have made it a point to exercise on a regular basis, but there are times, where I get busy and fail to exercise as I should. When I fail to exercise I often find myself making the choice to be undisciplined in my eating habits as well. This isn't bad if it only lasts for a week or two, but if this undiscipline extends longer than that, I can start to feel it in every area of my life. I don't feel as well, I start to get a little short of breath when doing any type of activity and my clothes start to fit a bit tighter.

Today, we are going to see how important it is to stay in spiritual shape. When you become lax spiritually, you may not think it affects you until you face the temptation of the devil and struggle because you are not in the correct spiritual condition.

What Does the Bible Say?

Putting together exactly what happened next in the life of Jesus is a little difficult. Mark tells us Jesus immediately went into the wilderness to be tested while John says “the next day” Jesus called some of the first disciples. John never recorded the exact baptism of Jesus, only the record of John the Baptist and what he said. It appears that the calling of the disciples probably took place after the temptation, though this is debatable. Sometimes, Biblical time lines are skewed a little bit since they kept track of time and days a little differently and because they wrote much less chronologically than we do today. Most of their writing was in story form or theme form and not necessarily in time order. We will start with the temptation and then move to the calling of the disciples. When exactly they happened is not really important because both of them happened.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness knowing that He would be tempted there by Satan. As already described, the Judean wilderness was not one full of trees, but full of barren hills and cliffs. Jesus ate nothing during His time in the wilderness which lasted for forty days and forty nights. Though there is nothing magical about this number, there are a few recorded times in scripture where others fasted for this amount of

time. Mark states there were wild animals around the area which would have made it dangerous, but that Jesus was comforted by the angels. Most likely, He spent most of this time in great communion with the Father preparing for the ministry which was ahead of Him. Remember that up to this point in his life, he had lived like an ordinary man. Now, as He was preparing for His ministry, He would take time to commune with the Father in a deeper way once again.

Obviously, Jesus would have been very hungry after not eating for forty days, but at the same time, He would have been spiritually strong. I understand a little about this since I once fasted from food for forty days and though physically I was hungry, spiritually, I was greatly invigorated. Satan tried to exploit the hunger of Jesus by tempting Him to turn some rocks into bread so that He could eat. Though there was nothing in the Law that would have prohibited Jesus turning the rocks into bread, the sin would have been not trusting God to provide for His needs. Satan tempted Jesus by saying, “If you are the Son of God.” He was trying to get Jesus to act on His emotions and take steps ahead of God's plan rather than to wait for God to lead Him and provide for Him.

The response of Jesus was clear and simple. He told Satan that man does not live by bread alone. He quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 which was a passage telling the Israelites they needed God more than they needed daily food. It revealed that if they followed God spiritually, He would help meet their physical needs. Satan's temptation was fought with Scripture and immediately caused Satan to attempt to use another tactic.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you prepared to face the temptations of Satan? Many people have suggested that Jesus was at His weakest point when these temptations came, and that is somewhat true. Jesus would have been weak physically, but would have been at a high point spiritually after spending forty days communing with His Father. He was ready to face the temptation and the battles ahead. You don't have to fast for forty days to be ready to face temptation, but you do need to be daily communing with God in order to have the strength to see and fight temptation. If you are not in the Scripture and drawing your spiritual strength from your fellowship with Him, you will be very vulnerable to the attacks and deception of the wicked one. Let your eyes be opened to the importance of dwelling in God's Word so you will be prepared for victory.

Mark 1:12-13

What did the Holy Spirit do (vs 12)?

****It is interesting to note that Jesus was not filled with the Holy Spirit until the day of His baptism at 30 years of age.*

Why do you think the Spirit forced Jesus into the wilderness (vs 12)?

****The wilderness was not far from where Jesus was baptized. It was just a couple of miles away from the area of Bethany Beyond Jordan and would have been around the same area where the Jericho Road was located.*

Why do you think Mark mentioned that Jesus was with the wild animals (vs 13)?

What do you think it meant that angels were ministering to Jesus (vs 13)?

Luke 4:1-4

Why do you think Luke declared that Jesus was now full of the Holy Ghost (vs 1)?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (vs 1)?

How long was Jesus in the wilderness (vs 2)?

What didn't Jesus do for those 40 days (vs 2)?

How did Jesus feel at the end of that time (vs 2)?

Why do you think Satan started this first temptation with the words, "If you are the Son of God?" (vs 3)?

What did Satan tempt Jesus to do (vs 3)?

Why do you think he tempted him to do this?

How did Jesus answer the devil (vs 4)?

What can you learn from the way Jesus answered?

Memory Verses

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.