

SERMON FOR MARCH 10, 2019

TEXT: LUKE 4: 1-13

THEME: REMEMBER WHOSE YOU ARE

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and 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 will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' ¹¹ and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

In the name of Jesus:

The lion was proud of his place in the animal kingdom. After all, he was the king of the jungle! One day he decided to make sure that all of the other animals knew that he was the king of the jungle. He was so confident that he bypassed all of the smaller animals and went straight to the bear. Who is the king of the jungle, asked the lion. The bear replied:" why of course you are! The lion gave a mighty roar of approval.

Next the lion came upon a tiger. The lion asked the tiger, "So who is the king of the jungle?" The tiger replied: "Why of course, you are." And the lion once again roared a roar of approval.

Then the lion came upon an elephant. The lion asked the elephant: "Who is the king of the jungle?" The elephant immediately grabbed the lion with his trunk, whirled him around in the air five or six times, slammed him into the tree, pounded him into the ground several times, dunked him under water in a nearby lake, and finally dumped him on to the ground.

The lion, beaten, dazed, and a bit confused struggled to his feet. "Look," he told the elephant, "just because you don't know the answer is no reason to get upset!"

So, who is the king of all of creation? As Christians, we know the answer! It's God, the only true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Why is this even a question? Because, it is a question! It is a fundamental question that needs an answer, it is a question that is posed every day by Satan and his demonic band of followers, and it is the issue that underlies the temptation of Jesus and the temptations we face daily.

Who is the king? It is an age- old question. The Bible says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He created everything in heaven and on the earth. In His might and wisdom He created the angels to serve Him. The Apostolic writer Jude records though that there were "angels who did not stay in their own position of authority." (Jude 6). Satan, the great enemy of God and of His creation, was created to serve God and serve Him alone. But the Accuser was not content to be a servant of God, so a great war broke out between Satan and the Lord. The Book of Revelation states: 'that war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon, and the dragon (the devil) and his angels fought back

but he, the devil, was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the devil and his angels were thrown down to earth.” (Rev. 12: 7-9). Jesus said of this battle: “I saw Satan fall like lightning.” (Luke 10:18).

While Satan was thrown from heaven, he now roamed the earth, looking to disrupt God’s perfect creation. The Lord placed Adam in the Garden, and said to him: ““You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Later, after God had created Eve to be a helper for Adam, Satan spoke to Eve in an effort to deceive both. He asked Eve: ““Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. “ They sewed fig leaves together for clothes and hid from the Lord as they had now fallen into the abyss of sinfulness and corruption. They had forgotten who they were, creatures of God. They had also forgotten whose they were, namely, children of the Heavenly Father, created by God to be in eternal relationship with Him.

The Apostle Paul writes: “¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.” Adam botched it; he failed in the face of temptation. So God sent a Second Adam, one to take his place, one who would be the Son of God in human flesh, to be tempted as Adam and Eve were, indeed, He would be tempted as we all are tempted, yet He would not give in to temptation. Jesus was born to do what Adam did not do. Jesus succeeded in standing strong and not giving into temptation, and we see this in our text for today.

Satan is a tricky devil and he did all within his power to try to deceive Jesus and lure Him into temptation. The Devil did all he could to try to circumvent Jesus going to the cross and offering up Himself as the Savior of the world. So in his temptations of Jesus, the Devil offered up to Jesus short cuts in Jesus’ effort to save sinners. Be a different type of king, Satan told Jesus. Be a bread king and satisfy the hunger of humanity. Be a magician and impress people with all sorts of razzle-dazzle. Be an earthly ruler and show your power and might, do all this but don’t go the way of the cross. You don’t need to, Jesus, you can go another way. But Jesus recognizes that these short cuts will not accomplish the mission that His Heavenly Father gave to Him. All of these short cuts would end up as dead ends. Jesus in the moments and times that He was tempted remembered who He was, namely the Son of God in human flesh. He knew that the human body was meant to have a life in harmony with God. Jesus uses Scripture to refute Satan’s temptations; He rejected the empty promises that Satan had to offer. Jesus knew that: “because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive

the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. And that is why Jesus rejected Satan's offers and traveled the road He only could travel, the way of the cross. Jesus understood that because of Adam's giving into temptation that all were made sinners. So that God's purpose would be accomplished that all be saved God sent His only Son into the world, to save the world by His perfectly led life, His innocent suffering and death, and by His victorious resurrection.

God has placed a claim on your life. You don't belong to yourself, you don't belong to the world, and you don't belong to anyone but Jesus. For you have been bought with a price, not with silver or gold, but with the holy precious blood of Jesus, shed for you on Calvary's cross. ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

In Baptism your old sinful self was crucified with Jesus so that you would no longer be a slave to sin. If you have died with Christ, and you have in Baptism, for His death is your death, you now have been set free to love God and serve others. You have been set free to stand in the face of the temptations of Satan, not allowing sin to reign in your life so that you live by the passions of the flesh. You have been bought by Jesus to live your life to the glory of God.

This is why the Bible says: since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder

and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12: 1-2).

But how do you do this? How do you stand in the face of temptation? By believing in Jesus, remembering that you belong to God and that you have been baptized in the name of Jesus. And by being in the Word of God, letting the Word dwell in you richly. Satan is alive and well and desires to drive you away from Jesus. So know who you are and whose you are, namely a child of God in Jesus Christ. Read your Bible daily, be faithful in worship and in receiving the Lord's Supper, be constant in prayer. For just as Jesus overcame temptation by relying on the Word of God, so too we all must rely on the Word of God and trust in Jesus, for He alone gives victory over temptation. And when we fail we know we have a faithful Savior who, when we confess our sins, is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Mothers like to give advice. When children leave the house for a basketball game, class trip, or an overnight stay at a friend's house, mom's will sometimes say: "Remember who you are." Moms will say this because if you remember who you are, you will live your life in a way that will please your mom. So too God reminds you today to remember whose you are. You belong to Jesus. So live your life, confident in His mercy, giving glory to Him.

Amen

