

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon title: The Temptation of Jesus, According to Mark, Mark 1:12-13

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**INTRODUCTION:** Last week we looked at the opening words of the Gospel of Mark. I pointed out to you Mark was probably writing to Roman readers, and the Romans liked action. He certainly wasted no time getting right to the action.

John the Baptist takes the stage, introduces Jesus, and then, Jesus takes over the direction of the Gospel.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:12-13 <sup>12</sup> *At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,* <sup>13</sup> *and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke both tell us about the temptations of Jesus, and they both go into deeper detail than Mark.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 4:1-11 <sup>1</sup> *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.* <sup>2</sup> *After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* <sup>3</sup> *The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”*

<sup>4</sup> *Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”*

<sup>5</sup> *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.* <sup>6</sup> *“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:*

*“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”*

<sup>7</sup> *Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”*

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**OVERVIEW:** Now we have insight into the few verses Mark wrote about. But, Mark said a lot in these two verses. Let’s look at them in closer detail.

1. Jesus went into the wilderness willingly.
2. The Israelites: 40 years of disobedience... Jesus: 40 days of obedience!
3. Joshua led to an earthly inheritance. Jesus leads to a spiritual one.
4. The first Adam was a failure. The second Adam is victorious!
5. The garden versus the wilderness.

### **First, JESUS WENT INTO THE WILDERNESS WILLINGLY.**

Mark said the Spirit of God sent Jesus. This word “sent” jumps out at me because it has so much meaning. The Greek word is *ek-bal'-lo*, and it means “to drive out.” Your English translation might say “drive out” or “impel” or something similar. This particular word is used 81 times in the New Testament, and when this word is used it means “*so employed that the rapid motion of the one going is transferred to the one sending forth; to command or cause one to depart in haste...but not with violent force*” [Bible hub].

**EXPLANATION:** Just as Jesus went into the wilderness willingly, he went to the cross willingly. What we see in the life of Jesus, as portrayed in the Gospels, is Jesus went about his ministry willingly. He taught willingly, healed people willingly, and so on. No one forced Jesus to do anything. He did it willingly. Jesus went to the cross willingly. He gave his life as a ransom for many willingly.

And, in this very example, Jesus was driven into the wilderness, but he went without force. When did he go? He went immediately after he was baptized!

I want you to concentrate on what I'm about to tell you...because I want you to see something you may have never seen before.

## **Second, ISRAELITES: 40 YEARS OF DISOBEDIENCE...JESUS: 40 DAYS OF OBEDIENCE!**

**EXPLANATION:** The children of Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness disobeying the Lord over and over. And, now we have Jesus, who spent 40 days in the wilderness obeying the Lord. Did you know if they had been obedient, they could have made it from the Red Sea to the Promised Land in 40 days or less?

## **Third, JOSHUA LED TO AN EARTHLY INHERITANCE. JESUS LEADS TO A SPIRITUAL ONE.**

**EXPLANATION:** When they were tested, the Israelites failed. When Jesus was tested, he was victorious. When the Israelites were finally ready to go into the Holy Land and receive their earthly inheritance, they had a new leader named Joshua. When Jesus had conquered Satan, he was ready to lead people to their spiritual inheritance. Did you know the name Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua?

## **Fourth, THE FIRST ADAM WAS A FAILURE. THE SECOND ADAM IS VICTORIOUS!**

**EXPLANATION:** Think about this parallel: In the beginning, when Adam was faced with temptation, he was a miserable failure. And, now at the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was tempted and came out incredibly victorious.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 <sup>45</sup> *So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.* <sup>46</sup> *The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.* <sup>47</sup> *The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.* <sup>48</sup> *As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.* <sup>49</sup> *And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.*

I've preached about Jesus as the second Adam before. It's truly a wonderful truth! The fact is, Jesus Christ redeemed our bodies after Adam's disobedience destroyed them!

## **Fifth, THE GARDEN VERSUS THE WILDERNESS**

**EXPLANATION:** Adam was in a beautiful, peaceful garden with all the food he needed, with everything he could have ever needed, and he gave in to Satan's temptation. Yet, Jesus was in an inhospitable wilderness with no food, and he did not give in to Satan's temptation.

Not only that, but Adam had dominion over the animals.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:26 <sup>26</sup>*Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

In the garden, Adam had tame animals. He actually had dominion over the serpent that tempted him, but he didn't execute his power. He lost dominion over the animals when he sinned.

And, now we have Jesus in the wilderness, with no food, reclaiming what Adam lost. The scripture says here in Mark 1 at the end of verse 13—he was with wild animals.

**CONCLUSION:** After Jesus endured these grueling days in the desert, he reentered society, called his disciples, cast a demon out of a man, taught in the temple, and healed people.

**APPLICATION:** My appeal to you today is this: Come and follow the victorious Savior. Repent of your sin today, and follow him. Become his disciple.

Jesus said in John, Chapter 6, *he would not reject anyone the Father has given him* (John 6:37).

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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