

MARK 1:12, 13 (PART 2) THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST.

INTRO/REVIEW:

- Let me set the scene a bit before we read.
- Mark is the gospel of speed and urgency.
- He uses the word "Immediately" at least 40X, more than the rest of the NT combined.
- In these two short verses there is much happening and alluded to:
- 5 personalities are seen there, the Spirit, Jesus, Satan, wild beasts and angels.
- Mark takes 2 verses to speak of the temptation of Christ while Mt. & Lk take 11 and 13 respectively.
- He is led by the Spirit throughout the 40 days of temptation and is led by the Spirit how to battle.
 - (Ps 144:1) Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle—
- What a royal battle for man's soul was waged here.
- The universe looked on, God the Father, the holy angels, all heavens hosts, the fallen angels and demons and wild beasts all watched.
- What tremendous things were at stake here!

READ: Mark 1:12, 13

- Into the wilderness: literally "an uninhabited place." Hot, desolate and inhospitable.
- Mark alone adds "with the wild beasts." (a hint of cooperation?)
- This region abounded with wild boars, jackals, wolves, foxes, leopards and hyenas.
- Nothing lived here but wild beasts, hunger and heat.
- Unlike Adam's paradise....
- Satan: adversary..... "devil" means false accuser, slanderer..

WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

I think it would be profitable to review some of the points we discussed two weeks ago to help refresh our minds.

- Temptation: to try, make trial of, test: for the purpose of ascertaining his quality, or what he thinks, or how he will behave himself;
- The word literally means to prick, pierce or test, to see or discern what is within. To see if there is good or evil inside.
- In this life, this side of eternity, the Christian will never be in a permanent state that will elevate him above temptation.
- To be tempted is NOT sin.
- Let's look at the word "tempted, or tried."

- **James 1:13-15**
- The strength of the temptation comes from within our hearts.
- There is nothing in our hearts that was not there before the temptation, the temptation/trial only exposes what's inside.
 - PS. 139:23-24; Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.
 - The old hymn: Search Me, Oh God, And Know My Heart Today; Try Me, Oh Savior, Know My Thoughts I Pray. See If There Be Some Wicked Way In Me; Cleanse Me From Every Sin, And Set Me Free.
- Our own desires and lusts pull us toward the sin.
 - For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies. (Mt. 15:19)
- Jesus did not fall when tempted by evil for there was nothing out of the character of God within Him.
 - JN. 14:30, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.
- God may permit us, lead us into situations where we may be tried/tested/tempted but His desire is to test us to see what is inside, His desire is for us to overcome and be delivered by the strength of the Spirit from the evil, and thus mature and grow.
- These trials reveal to us what is inside.

THE TEMPTATION OF CHURST:

- Jesus is driven by the Spirit.
- **Drove**: to cast out, send out, to drive out, to cast out.
- The same word is used of **bringing forth** good and evil things from the heart.
 - Mt. 12:35, A good man out of the good treasure of his heart **brings forth** good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure **brings forth** evil things. (same word)
- This is the same word in the GK as that in vs 34, & 39 of this chapter.
- The strong use of the word, "driven" is not due to any hesitation from Jesus or any fear of a trial, rather it is Marks' way of highlighting the intensity the urgency, the necessity of the experience
- There would be no time spent by Christ gloating or basking in the glory of the Father's endorsement (this is My Beloved Son) or the Spirits anointing... He must proceed directly into the battle.
- Luke adds the little phrase; "for a season" or "until an opportune time." (4:13)
- Here is a verse on satans opportune time:
 - Luke 22:53; When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

- Temptation here is in the present tense participle which speaks of continuous action.
- Satan was unrelenting in the temptation of Jesus. Constant over the 40 days of physical weakness and loss of human fellowship.
- The temptation of Christ was a real temptation. The testing was real, it came with power.
- If He did not experience real temptation then this trial was not a real trial or temptation.
 - Heb. 2:18; For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.
 - 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.
- Here we find Jesus alone, without food or friends, without any earthly comforts of support and yet He comes forth the victor!
- Here the Angels ministered to Him:
- To minister means to serve and is the same word for deacons... They were caring for Him.
- Used especially of those who execute the commands of others.
- They were commissioned by the Father for this work.
- The Greek here also indicates a continuous action of ministering during the whole time not just after.
- They administered soul encouragement, not food or physical aid.

CONCLUSION:

- First let history be an example to us:
 - Heb. 4:7-19
 - 1 Cor. 10:1-13
- Second; be aware of Satan's devices; Just as Jesus was tried by Satan after His affirmation from the Father and the Spirit, often it is the same with us, when we make progress in the spiritual/Christian life, the challenger will come...
- Notice also that Jesus did battle with His enemy at the beginning of His ministry. He met him straight on and in victory.
- So He could declare during His ministry;
 - If I with the finger of God cast out devils....When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. ²² But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. (Lk. 11;20-22)
- Thirdly; there is no other way for us to overcome our enemy but by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.
- Flesh cannot overcome flesh, nor overcome the world or defeat the devil.

- **Man's resolve or strength is no match for our 3 great enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil.**
 - **1 John 2:16; For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.**
- **We must know the helping, delivering, and strengthening power of the indwelling Spirit the Spirit of the great Overcomer.**
- **A dying to self, a putting to death the "old man," and putting on the new man. (Eph. 4:22-24)**
- **Fourthly; If the Father saw it necessary for Jesus to enter the battlefield of temptation and trial, certainly I must go this way too and not be alarmed.**
 - **1 Peter 4:13, 14**
 - **Rom. 5:3**
- **Fifthly; God desires us to know ourselves, what is inside, to know what is inside us. That by this we may mature and grow in sanctification. Heb. 5:14, 12:11, James 1:12, 1 Peter 1:6,7, James 1:2-4,**
- **Lastly; Jesus leads us in "victory."**
 - **Rom. 8:37. Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.**
 - **2 Cor. 2:14. Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.**
 - **1 Jn. 5:4, 5. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**