

Matthew – The King And His Kingdom
The Great Adventure
Notes For Session 5 – Chapter 4: The Tempting of the King

1. First thing Jesus does in his public ministry is to confront the devil (evil) immediately. This was consistent with the Messianic role. The Jews believed that the Messiah would do certain things.
2. Jesus is fitting into that role but he is not focused on liberation from foreign occupation but rather he is focused on liberation for sin.
3. Jews were expecting a Messiah Jesus to fight and liberate them as did the Messianic figures from the Old Testament:
 - David with Goliath
 - Hezekiah with Assyria
 - Josiah with the Egyptians
 - Judas Maccabees with Seleucid Dynasty
4. The Zealots (a Jewish sect) wanted Jesus to confront and defeat Rome but this would not have addressed the real problem – the devil.
5. Jesus came to confront and do battle with the real problem of our sin and unfaithfulness – the devil.

Question: How many times do we find ourselves in trouble only to blame our situation on the wrong root cause? We must remember it is about the way you live your life not the superficial things, i.e., job finances, relationships.

6. First 11 verses: Jesus is reliving the history of Israel, going through what Israel went through but He is going to be successful. He is going to be the son who trusts the Father as opposed to Israel (the first-born son) who did not trust the Father.
7. The number 40 is the number of trusting.
 - Israel's came up from the parting of the Red Sea and wandered for 40 years because of their hardness of heart and lack of trust in God.

- Jesus is coming from the parting of the water directly into 40 days and nights of testing.

Catechism Section 538

"The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of this time, Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leaves him "until an opportune time".

- Jesus faced the same three temptations that Israel faced in her 40 years of wandering as detailed in the Book of Numbers. We know this because Jesus answers the devil from the Book of Deuteronomy where Moses reviews the history and how she failed to trust in God.

8. Setting the Stage from the OT:

- Israel came out of Egypt (1400 BC) and they were tempted in three major ways.
- As a result of refusing to go up to the Promised Land that generation was made to wander one year for every day they refused to go up to Promised Land. They had spied on the land for 40 days and 40 nights so they were made to wander for 40 years in the wilderness.
 - a. Everyone 20 years of age and above would die in the wilderness;
 - b. Everyone who is under 20 will live to see the Promised Land.
- The Book of Deuteronomy, Chapters 6-8 Moses is telling that younger generation how their parents failed, how they refused to go up into the Promised Land. He cites three major failures of their parents.
- These are the same three temptations that Jesus faced and to which he responded with answers from Deuteronomy.
- We can learn from this in our own lives. When we are tempted not to trust God about provisions and security. When we are tempted to test Him – put Him to the test rather than to trust Him. And when we are tempted in our own lives in the worshiping of false Gods. We need to respond the same way that Jesus responded.

9. In all three tests that Jesus faces, the devil begins by attacking his identity as the Son of God. The Devil was trying to compromise Jesus' filial (family) relationship (Father/Son Relationship) with God. SEE Catechism 538.

Important to remember that most of your temptations are going to test your identity as a son or daughter of God.

1. First Temptation. – Hunger, Provision., Security

- a) Ex 16:2-3 – Here in the desert, the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!"
- b) Jesus responds from Duet 8:3 - this is where you parents went wrong.

2. Second Temptation – Testing God. The devil quotes Psalm 91:11-12

- a) The Devil knows Psalm 91. A Psalm you should always read if you are fearful, cannot sleep, or feel like you are in danger.
- b) Why does devil stop at end of verse 12? Look at verse 13 concerning God: "You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot."
- c) Ex 17:2-3 – Israel complains of no water and again turns on Moses.

"They quarreled, therefore, with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to a test?" Here, then, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?"

- d) Moses called the place Massah – means Testing
- e) Don't we do this sometimes in our own lives. We say things like Lord if you will do so and so, I will know that you really love me. We test the Lord!
- f) Jesus responds from Deut 6:16. Reminder to younger generation about their parents testing God.

3. Third Temptation – Worshiping False Gods

- a) Ex 32 – Israel worships the Golden Calf while Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and forty nights.
- b) Jesus responds from Deut 6:13-14. Which is the response to the Golden Calf incident.

10. Jesus defeats all three temptations by trusting God and the result is that the enemy flees!

- We too can defeat the devil – SEE James 4:7
- James 4:7: So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

11. Most of the subsequent actions in the ministry of Jesus can be seen as repercussions of His victory in the wilderness.

12. Forty (40) Days of Lent is when we conform our lives to Jesus Christ. We go into the wilderness ourselves, confront those weaknesses in our lives and strengthen them by trusting in God in our family (filial) relationship with our Father, God.

Question For Now And During Lent:

- Am I more like Israel in the desert (complaining, not trusting in God)
or
- Am I more like Jesus in the desert (trusts the Father and answers the enemy with the Word of God)?

13. Jesus was tempted but not enticed.

"Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning." By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. CCC540

- Tempted by the weakness of the flesh because he was a man but not enticed because he was not allured by concupiscence.
- Concupiscence is the state that we experience now after Original Sin where our intellect is darkened and our will is weakened.
- Jesus does not experience concupiscence because that is the result of sin.
- Jesus is tempted but not enticed. He did not have any lust or disordered appetites because he lacked concupiscence.

14. Concupiscence is described in 1John 2: 15-17 where it talks about the

- Lust of the Flesh- Fulfillment of physical desires
- Lust of the Eyes – I want
- Pride of Life – I can do it

15. Matthew 6 will give us three major forms of piety which combat these

- Lust of the Flesh is conquered by Fasting.
- Lust of the Eyes is conquered by Almsgiving.
- Pride of Life is conquered by Prayer.

16. Citations from the Catechism, which will help us, deal with temptation.

- 2847 – Discernment between trials and temptation
 - a. Trials are necessary for the growth of the inner man.
 - b. Temptation leads to sin and death.
 - c. Either way we need to focus on the Lord and rely upon Him.

The Holy Spirit makes us discern between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death. CCC2847

- 1808 – Fortitude
 - a. Moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good.
 - b. Virtue is not something you are born with but rather something, you must exercise in order to achieve it.

Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. "The Lord is my strength and my song." "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." CCC 1808

- 2157 – The Sign of the Cross.
 - a. Up until not too long ago, all denominations did the Sign of the Cross.
 - b. Over time, most denominations have refused to do it because it is so identified with Catholicism.
 - c. Catechism calls us to start each day with the Sign of the Cross.
 - d. Strengthens us when facing trials and difficulties. Some cultures have truly adopted this practice
 - e. Morning Prayer Before Getting Out Of Bed:
 - Sign of Cross. Jesus, I give today to you completely.

The Christian begins his day, his prayers, and his activities with the Sign of the Cross: "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." The baptized person dedicates the day to the glory of God and calls on the Savior's grace which lets him act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The sign of the cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties. CCC 2157

- 2340 – Self- knowledge, Self- discipline; Obedience to God's commands.
 - a. Self-knowledge tells you to avoid those things where you know that you are weak.
 - b. 1 Chron 10:13 – There is always a way of escape. “No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.”

“Whoever wants to remain faithful to his baptismal promises and resist temptations will want to adopt the means for doing so: self-knowledge, practice of an asceticism adapted to the situations that confront him, obedience to God's commandments, exercise of the moral virtues, and fidelity to prayer.” Indeed it is through chastity that we are gathered together and led back to the unity from which we were fragmented into multiplicity.” CCC 2340

17. Why does Jesus set up his headquarters in Capernaum (Galilee) – Northern shores of the Sea of Galilee?

- Zebulun and Naphtali which were the first two tribes to disappear in 732 BC as Assyria were making early excursions into the North. The other eight were taken out in 722 BC.
- Capernaum is situated between Zebulun and Naphtali; therefore, since they were the first to be destroyed, Jesus targets Galilee to be the first to be restored.
- Via Maras – road which comes down Damascus in the North (modern day Syria) down South around the Sea of Galilee and over the Mediterranean down to Egypt.
 - a. Everyone wants it because of its proximity to the sea.
 - b. It is one of the bloody histories in the world.
 - c. It is where the valley of Armageddon is located.
 - d. Isaiah prophesized that one day this area (Galilee of the Gentiles) would be a place of light. (Isa 9:1-2)

18. Matthew 4:18-22: Jesus begins to gather his twelve apostles as he continues to relive Israel's history. The twelve apostles represent the new 12 tribes of the new Israel.