

Mark

“The Emperors Credentials part 2”

1:12-13

I. Introduction

II. Vs. 12-13 Temptation

I. Introduction

The 2nd part of Jesus' preparation was his temptation as both Matthew and Luke record this as well, only John leaves this section out. What a comfort it is to realize as the author of Hebrews wrote in chapter 4 verse 15 saying, *“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.”* There is nothing that I face in the flesh or on the world that Jesus didn't and He did so with complete victory. There is a sense that we can read this section and realize that we need not face temptation alone as Jesus is with us and has defeated what we are facing. Recently Donna and I took the grandchildren to “*Jurassic Quest*” a full size animatronic dinosaur exhibit. Four year old Nate, was excited, talking about how he wanted to ride one. That was until we got their and saw they were as big as houses, looked real, made horrible sounds and looked as if they had just killed something. The poor little guy was terrified. He wouldn't turn his back on any of them, afraid he was going to be their next victim. That was until Grandpe took his hand walked over to the fiercest, loudest dino in the bunch and started petting its nose and grabbing its fake blood stained tooth. I then asked Nate if he wanted me to take that dino home and place him on the BBQ for dinner. To Nate I was the dino slayer able to overcome the meanest dino's that ever existed and because he walked with me he could too. Saint's what a great

section of scripture this is as we walk with our champion through every monster that roars and threatens us knowing that He conquered every one of them and as we walk with Him we can too.

II. Vs. 12-13 Temptation

Vs. 12 Jesus was identified with sinful humanity at His baptism now He is also identified with us sinners in our temptations. Mark's account use the least amount of words but the most suggestive words, "the ***Spirit DROVE Him*** into the wilderness....tempted by satan, ***and was there with the wild beasts***". There are **three things here about this**

preparation that Mark implies:

1. Vs. 12 ***Eager willingness***: Mark (for the 2nd time) use his favorite word "***immediately***" but does so in conjunction with something most of us would get excited over a TEST! And not just any test, **a test administered by a lying, murder who has designed the test not to see what you have learned but to ensure that you fail!** The devil had given other tests to other people like Job but this test was even more sever as again we go to the author of Hebrews in chapter 4 verse 15 where we read that Jesus was "***in ALL POINTS TEMPTED AS WE ARE, yet without sin.***" "***All points tempted as we are***" and when examined all of humanity failed at some point but not Jesus. The word "***drove***" in the Greek implies something very different than what we think it means in the English as **we see the word "drove" implying reluctance on Jesus' part.** When we compare the accounts of Matthew and Luke we see that those two writers used very different words to describe Jesus journey into the wilderness to be tested as their word means was "***led up***" and "***was led***" which is the emphasis upon the Holy Spirit

- guiding. Only Mark uses the word that implies **Jesus perspective in going** which **speaks not of reluctance** but rather of **preoccupation of mind in going**. Mark will use the word again in chapter 1:34, 39 speaking casting out or driving out demons. I believe we get the picture of Jesus' intent as he couldn't wait to drive out the evil influence. This isn't a picture of reluctance on Jesus part it is a picture of **complete and absolute CONFIDENCE**. That is what happens when light comes into darkness it drives out the night. We don't need to stomp or swing our arms in the dark we just need to turn on the LIGHT!
2. Vs. 13a **Complete examination**: The 2nd thing that Mark points out is the thoroughness of satan's examination. The word "*tempted*" is in the "*present tense*" which speaks of a continuous action. The three temptations that Luke and Matthew record at the end of the 40 days indicate the intensity of the temptations as the end of the 40 days as satan knew his time was short. Mark mentions **three things about the tests**.
- a. **Wilderness**: First its **location**, which one Greek scholar said that the word "*wilderness*" describes **unknown isolation**. What is magnified in isolation is that nothing is available in the environment to take a person's mind off of their circumstances and this intensifies the testing.
- b. **Forty days**: Second we note the **longevity** of the test being 40 days and nights. When you look at the number 40 in the Bible you discover something very interesting as the number is almost always associated with testing or judgment.
- Noah's flood: It rained 40 days and 40 nights
 - Israel in the desert: They wandered 40 years

- Moses kept his father in laws sheep 40 years after slaying the Egyptian in Egypt
- Jesus: Tested 40 days

Adam lost dominion over nature in Genesis 1:28 here we see the 2nd Adam

Jesus with the wild beasts that will regain their position they lost in our fall.

What Adam lost in the garden Jesus won back in the desert. The other

accounts of this informs us without food as our Lord was fasting. Though I'm

certain that the Spirit sustain Jesus with the food of fellowship satan used that

as a temptation, to which Jesus responded that what sustained him was

fellowship. Yet still we are told at the end He was hungry!

- c. **Tempted by satan**: Third, we have *the examiner* the devil, a word in the Greek that means "adversary". The word "tempted" in the Greek is a word that means to "pierce in search of". The word came to mean to, "*try intentionally with the purpose to discover weakness, to purposefully solicit a person to do evil.*"

3. Vs. 13b **Achieved a 100% on the test**: The final note on the preparation of Jesus is that the wild beasts and the angels are mentioned as being present with Jesus.

- a. **Wild beast were with Him**: Neither, Matthew or Luke record the wild beasts but Mark does as he places the Greek emphasis on the word "**WITH**" which changes the meaning of the phrase to the fact that Jesus was at peace with the wild beasts.

This fact reveals **two very important truths**:

1. **Jesus enjoyed a relationship with His creation that hadn't been experienced since before the fall.** We are told in Genesis 1:28 that Adam and Eve were to "*have dominion over the fish of the sea, over*

the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” This indicates that during those 40 days of temptation Jesus remained sinless and always had authority over His creation.

2. **Furthermore we are told that during the 100 year reign of Christ upon the earth.** According to Isaiah 11:6 *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”* This also indicates the future fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy as he describes Jesus in chapter 11 as having *“The spirit of the Lord resting upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”* Jesus went out into that time of temptation with what Isaiah describes as *“righteousness as His belt and faithfulness around His waist”*. These “wild beasts” saw Jesus as God the Son their creator and therefor worshipped Him as such as He will be their liberator as well. Paul wrote in Romans 8:21-22 that *“the creation itself also will be delivered from bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of god. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”*

- b. **Angels Ministered to Him:** In the Greek means to serve and is in the imperfect tense meaning that their care was continuous. The angelic creation ministered to Him at the end of His temptation which shows that Jesus not only was Creator and Master of that which was created on the earth, He is both Lord and creator of

the heavens as well. They executed the commands of the Father for the Son continually all during the 40 days and nights and Matthew adds that when satan left Jesus they ministered to Him and by this it is referring to Jesus physical needs as they had been attending to eternal needs. This was a test that offered satan's worst but there was never a doubt that Jesus would pass the test with 100%.

For forty days Jesus was tempted:

- By His hunger to wonder whether the Father cared
- By the scope of work, how far He could go apart from the Father's guidance
- By the offer of the kingdoms of the world what He may gain apart from His sacrifice

Where every other person that has ever been failed at every one of these tests, Jesus never once:

- **DOUBTED LOVE**
- **TRADED TRUST**
- **QUESTIONED HOPE**