

# ASTONISHED

AT THE WISDOM AND WORDS OF JESUS

## LIVE YOUR LIFE BY THE BOOK

*This is part 3 of the Astonished At The Wisdom And Words Of Jesus Sermon Series*

### SUMMARY

Throughout His ministry, Jesus came close to people, and He conversed with people, and when He did people were astonished at what He said. In this sermon series, we are listening to and learning from the wise Words of Jesus.

### REVIEW

Last week, we looked at Matthew chapter 3 and we considered the first recorded words of Jesus' earthly ministry. These words were spoken to John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:15 says, “...Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.”

We highlighted this thought: **IT’S RIGHT TO DO RIGHT RIGHT NOW.**

Facing life correctly requires **CLARITY, COURAGE**, and a **COMMITMENT** to the cause of Christ and his purpose.

We found that we must be careful not to rush through necessary seasons of preparation. These seasons often produce something different within us that enables God to accomplish His great work through us.

We found that we aren't called to fit into this world, and the goal of our life isn't to live in the so-called "grey areas of life."

We'll never regret doing what is right, but there will always come a point when we will regret doing wrong.

Our pursuit should not be **POPULARITY** or **PROFIT**; our pursuit should be to live out our God-given **PURPOSE**.

We still have the responsibility to repent of our sins and to say "Yes" to the will of God for our life.

## MESSAGE

Immediately after telling John that it is right to do right right now, we find that...

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist,

The Holy Spirit descended from Heaven in the form of a dove and lighted upon Jesus, and

The voice of God spoke from Heaven saying this about Jesus: *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:17).

We are then told that Jesus was led, or driven, by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where Jesus is given the opportunity to practice what He had just preached.

Matthew 4:1-2 says, *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred."*

Luke tells us, in Luke 4:2, that Jesus wasn't just tempted three times by the Devil, but He was *"...forty days tempted of the devil..."*

For forty-days, the Devil threw everything that he possibly could at Jesus, but he did so unsuccessfully.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus *"...was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15).

At the end of forty days, we find that Jesus is hungry, Jesus is exhausted, and Jesus is still in bad company.

Matthew 4:3-11 says, *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord"*

*thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention back to three statements that Jesus made:

Verse 4 where the Jesus says, "*...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*"

Verse 7 where the Jesus says, "*...It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*"

Verse 10 where the Jesus says, "*...Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*"

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **LIVE YOUR LIFE BY THE BOOK.**

When we consider this particular portion of Scripture, it is so easy for us to focus on the very real issue of temptation.

James 1:13-14 says, "*Let no man say **when he is tempted**, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but **every man is tempted**, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*"

Someone defined temptation this way: "*temptation* is an enticement of our desires that goes beyond a God established boundary." I think that's a tremendous definition. We have a very real enemy that through temptation wants to lead us outside of God's will for our life. Jesus was sent from Heaven with a very specific set of purposes, and the Devil tried to do everything that he could to prevent Jesus from fulfilling those purposes.

And so, while there is nothing at all wrong with considering the **REALITY** of temptation and the fact that **VICTORY** is possible over temptation, we need to understand that the victory that Christ won over temptation was not won in the **MOMENT**; the victory that Christ won over temptation was because of a decision that was **MADE** to live His life by the Word of God.

The same is true for us. We can't just casually throw Scripture at our problems or at our temptation hoping that it will make the temptations stop or the problems go away. The Bible is to be the sole authority for our life, not a lifeline in the day of trouble. The will of God is to be the **MEAT** of our life and the Word of God is to be the **MEANS** by which we become and do what pleases God.

The Scripture records three temptations that Jesus faced and His solution to each – the Word of God. Through these statements, we find that the Word of God should impact our entire life.

1) The Bible should impact **WHO I AM**

It's interesting to me that in two of the three temptations, Satan begins the temptation with this: *"...If thou be the Son of God..."* He was tempting Jesus to use His identity for His own selfish gain.

2) The Bible should impact **WHAT I DO**

Matthew 4:3 says, *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."*

Matthew 4:6 says, *"And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."*

Psalm 91:11-12 says, *"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."*

I should wait on the Lord to meet my need, I should walk the path that God has designed for me, and I should do what God has told me to do.

3) The Bible should impact **WHAT I WANT**

Matthew 4:8-9 says, *"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."*

Matthew 4:10 says, *"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."*

1 John 2:12-17 says, *"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*