

COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BECOME BREAD

Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Matthew 3:16-4:11

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9 with Matt.21:4-5)

I. TEMPTATION APPEALS TO OUR NEEDS, WANTS, DESIRES, AND/OR SINFUL PASSIONS (Matthew 4:2,3; James 1:14-15)

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

A. Jesus, as a man, had the same physical needs that you and I have. After fasting forty days and forty nights, Jesus became hungry (Matthew 4:2-3).

B. In His own flesh, Jesus would never have entertained for a single moment the thought of turning stones into bread to satisfy His physical need of hunger.

1. If Jesus had remained in the wilderness by Himself, He never would have been tempted.

2. Never was there a single day of all the forty days Jesus was alone when He considered using His supernatural power to satisfy His personal need to eat.

3. Satan had to come and challenge Jesus with a thought that would not naturally have occurred in the mind of our Lord and Savior (Matthew 4:3).

II. DURING THE 40 DAYS OF JESUS' LONELY FASTING IN THE WILDERNESS, HE LIVED OUT HIS TEACHING WHICH HE GAVE IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matthew 5-7 with Deuteronomy 8)

A. In the wilderness, Jesus never became anxious of where He would find food (Deuteronomy 8:3,16). He never worried about wild beasts attacking Him (see Deuteronomy 8:15). He was perfectly living out and praying what He taught on the Sermon on the Mount.

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (Matthew 6:25).

B. What are the sinful thoughts that pop into your mind? What are the fantasies that you entertain? What are the sinful scenarios that you play out in your mind? What are the things you worry about that make you depressed or angry?

III. SATAN TEMPTS JESUS WITH A THOUGHT THAT NEVER WOULD HAVE NATURALLY OCCURRED TO HIM, "COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BECOME BREAD" (Matthew 4:3).

A. Jesus submitted Himself to listening to the lies of the devil because He delighted in the will of God and because He loved you and me.

B. Jesus had to listen to the lie of Satan. But never for a moment did He waver in His response (Matthew 4:4//Deuteronomy 8:3).

(OVER **Z**)

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

2 “You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

3 “He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

How does man live?

C. The most basic needs of man must NEVER be elevated above God’s Law.

Luke 14:26-27 (NASB95)

26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

The cross isn’t primarily a reference to physical suffering. It’s primarily a reference to single-minded _____ to God’s will in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12-16

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Pray that God would not lead you into temptation and that He would deliver you from the evil one.

What were the three temptations Satan spoke to Jesus?

How were the temptations of Jesus different from ours? How were they the same?

Why wouldn’t Jesus have been tempted if He had remained by Himself in the wilderness?

How did Jesus live out His teaching of the Sermon on the Mount during His 40 days in the wilderness?

