

Ministry Prep!

I. Slide#1 Announce:

A. Prayer for Missions teams:

1. Ukraine Team (Zach) [Winter Camp; Ukraine Xmas tomorrow]
2. Peru Team (Tony)
3. Haiti CMCS Team (Des & Maddie Tyler) Leave Tues. (Jan.8-15)
4. Belize Team (Jeff/Sherrill Wilson) (Jan.12-19)
5. Haiti HEF Team (Kevin) Construction Team (Jan.14-20) [Medical, building trusses for 2 new churches & 1 school building. Upgrading electric system. Fish project]

B. Slide#2 Prayer For Teams & Morning:

II. Intro:

A. **Last week** we looked at our author **Mark** & his story. **And**, we looked at the forerunner **John the Baptist** & his unique roll in rolling out the Red Carpet for *Yeshua Ha Meshiah*.

1. **Slide#3 Now**, Mark introduces us to **Jesus**, **but not as** a babe. **Not as** a jr. higher down at the temple answering questions. **But as** a 30 year old man starting His ministry.
 - a) All we get from **His past** is that He *came from Nazareth of Galilee*. (9)
 - (1) **Galilee**, always used in contempt by the Judean's.
 - b) For 30 years, the “self emptied One” was just one of the people. **Undistinguishable** from other men; **undiscovered** as to any deep secret of personality, or any profound anointing for service. He had a most common names of the day *Joshua*. **No halo** round his head. **Nothing strange** about Him. He was *one of the crowd*, a man among men.¹
 - c) He has now lived over **10,000 busy days** on planet earth. An ordinary **workman**, honing His craft, mastering His tools, meeting carpentry deadlines. Bearing ordinary human **responsibilities** & entering into ordinary human **experiences**.
2. This morning we're biting off only **5 verses** that are given to explain his *Ministry Prep*
3. **If Jesus needed Ministry Prep do you think you do? Do you or will you willing submit yourself to that? What is ministry prep for?**

B. **Slide#4** God was well pleased with **John's** ministry that He gave him the greatest of honors... **the baptism of His Son**.

C. John could only drench them **externally w/water**; **but** One was coming that could drench them **internally w/the Spirit**.

1. In **water baptism** every part of your body is completely soaked.

¹ Adapted from G.Campbell Morgan, The Gospel According to Mark, pg.18.

- a) Thus when we are **baptized/immersed into the body** of Christ at salvation we are drenched head-to-toe with Him.
2. **And**, When we are **baptized by the Son, w/the Holy Spirit**, we are “**filled**” to overflowing.
 - a) Whether you’ve been *dipped, sprinkled, or dry cleaned*, you are not one of His unless you have received, **the regeneration** of the H.S., **His cleansing** from sin, & **His empowering** to godliness!

III. Slide#5 **JESUS’ BAPTISM! (9-11)**

A. Slide#6a Jesus **credentials?**

1. He was **prophesied** by Malachi & Isaiah (vs.2,3).
2. He was **announced** by John the Baptist.
3. He was **commended** by both the Father & the H.S. (vs.10)

B. Slide#6b **Why** was Jesus baptized?

1. He was sinless, He needed no baptism.
2. But in is baptism He **associated w/us** sinners & placed Himself among the guilty.
 - a) **Not for** His own salvation **but for ours**.
 - b) **Not for** His own guilt **but for ours**.
 - c) **Not because** He feared the wrath to come, **but to save us from it**.

C. Slide#6c **What** did He see?

1. The heavens (lit.) “torn open”. **Then, He saw...**
2. The H.S. in the form of a dove.

D. Slide#6d **What** did he **hear?**

1. A voice of **confirmation** from the Father.

IV. Slide#7 **JESUS’ TEMPTATION! (12-15)**

A. **Heaven** had opened in vs.10, now **Hell** opens up!

B. He felt such a strong compulsion to head into the wilderness to duel Satan.

1. Actually the wording is **the Spirit drove Him** = is from a strong verb *ekballō* meaning “drive out, expel, send away.” (later in NT used of *casting our demons* by Christ)
 - a) No leisured meditative walk, **but driven** to **face the forces** that **ruin & blight & blast & spoil** humanity.
2. In Jewish thought the wilderness was viewed as a place of **danger, gloom, & the abode of demons**.
3. **Example:** Lk.8:29 **For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains**

and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was **driven** by the demon into the wilderness. (also Mt.12:43; Lk.11:24)

4. The *wild beasts* speaks to this also.

a) Remember the fear of *the Bermuda Triangle* back in the 70's? There was a # of aircraft & surface vessels said to have disappeared in the triangle under unknown circumstances. Popular culture has attributed various disappearances to the paranormal or activity by extraterrestrial beings. Later refuted in 1975 by researcher David Kusche [The # of ships and aircraft reported missing in the area was not significantly greater, proportionally speaking, than in any other part of the ocean]

b) Or, the Air Force installation in Nevada...**Area 51!**

C. **Tempted** means "*put to the test, make trial of*" in order to discover the kind of person someone is. It is used either in a **good sense** (God's testing) **or** in a **bad sense** of enticement to sin by Satan and his cohorts.

1. **Both senses are involved here:**

a) **God** put Jesus to the test (the Spirit led Him/drove Him into it) to show He was **qualified** for His messianic mission.

b) But also **Satan** tried to *draw Jesus away* from His **divinely appointed mission**.

D. *These details are from Matthew & Luke's accounts (ch.4)*

E. **Slide#8 Temptation #1 – You're hungry...Eat!** - If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.

1. This 1st temptations plays upon the very last event & the words, **You are my beloved Son**.

2. Seems so harmless "eat", **but** the Son came to do the fathers will **& nothing else!**

a) "It is better to starve than to be fed apart from the will of the Father!"

b) **Do you ever face temptation that are not bad things** per se, just not **God things** for you?

3. To the 1st temptation Jesus gave a resounding, **NO!**

F. **Slide#9 Temptation #2 – Highest point of the temple...Jump!** - If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' * and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

1. Slight misquote of Ps.91:11,12 leaving out the phrase * "to guard you in all your ways," which means "*in all your righteous ways.*"

2. This will be a great act of faith on your part...come on jump!

3. "Don't put your God to the test!" – God doesn't appreciate being tested.

a) God expects **obedience not gymnastics!**

4. Don't fall for **the Good**; determine to do **God's Will alone!**
 - a) Like Jesus, determine to **do the right thing**, determining that in every situation you will **worship God, & Him only you will serve!**
 5. 2nd temptation Jesus said, **NO!**
- G. **Slide#10 Temptation #3 – An exceedingly high mountain...Look! - All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.**
1. Here all the nations stood ready to abandon their idols & follow Him.
 2. Here He could win the world **w/o pain.**
 3. Here was the easy road to King-ship.
 4. Here was the ability to be the “Shortcut Savior”.
 5. Here lied the ability for **instant exaltation**, or the **long agony** of the cross! (all it took was **one quick bow!**)
 - a) Hard way...or Easy way?
 6. 3rd temptation Jesus said, **NO!**
- H. I don't know how you picture Jesus' temptation in the wilderness? **Slide#11 :)**
1. But here is one of my favorite depictions of this scene...
 2. **Slide#12** Ron DiCianni - Tapestryproductions.com
 - a) **Painting:** In The Wilderness
 - b) Ron said, In this painting, I wanted the isolation of that time to come through to the viewer. It begs the questions, “Did Jesus get weary? Was the temptation hard for Him? Could it be that He, the very Son of God, felt the pain of loneliness?”
- I. **Slide#13,14** Jesus & Satan would meet again, **but** the 1st great battle was over! **Jesus 1 - Satan 0**
1. We need to **flee temptation** and **not** leave a forwarding address!
- J. Let's learn 2 things from this!
1. **Slide#15a [1]** You must be **filled with the Holy Spirit** to fight temptation!
 - a) Rom.8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.
 - b) When Martin Luther was asked how he overcame the Devil, he replied, “Well, when he comes knocking upon the door of my heart, & asks, ‘Who lives here?’ the dear Lord Jesus goes to the door & says, ‘Martin Luther used to live here, but he has moved out. Now I live here!’”
 - c) Jesus did not use **His** divine powers to win the victory; **He used** the same spiritual weapons that any of us can use, if we will **yield to His H.S.!**

2. **Slide#15b [2]** You must be filled with the Word of God to fight temptation!
 - a) In response to the 3 temptations Jesus responded **with Scripture!** (Deut.8:3, 6:16, 6:13)
 - b) Jesus understood the truth of Ps.119:11, **Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!**
 - c) There is **nothing magical** about the words of Scripture. Jesus is saying, “here is a principle to live by...& I will live by it!”
 - (1) **God’s word is given to be lived.**
 - (2) Here is where Jesus found **victory**, & in doing God’s word is where **we’ll find ours also!**

3. **Slide#16** Anatoli Shcharansky, a dissident Soviet Jew, kissed his wife goodbye as she left Russia for freedom in Israel. His parting words to her were, “I’ll see you soon in Jerusalem.” But Anatoli was detained and finally imprisoned. Their reunion in Jerusalem would not only be postponed, it might never occur. During long years in Russian prisons and work camps Anatoli was stripped of his personal belongings. His only possession was a miniature copy of the Psalms. Once during his imprisonment, his refusal to release the book to the authorities cost him 130 days in solitary confinement. Finally, twelve years after parting with his wife, he was offered freedom. In February 1986, as the world watched, Shcharansky was allowed to walk away from Russian guards toward those who would take him to Jerusalem. **But in the final moments of captivity, the guards tried again to confiscate the Psalms book.** Anatoli threw himself face down in the snow and refused to walk on to freedom without it. Those words had kept him alive during imprisonment. He would not go on to freedom without them.²

K. I heard there was **2 signs** posted on 2 of the bridge's pylons before you plummet 180’ into Niagara Falls...

1. **Slide#17a** The 1st reads, "Do you have an anchor?" followed by, **Slide#17b** "Do you know how to use it?"
 - a) And so, the Lord gives us **plenty of warnings** before we over the edge...in any sin!
 - b) **Slide#18blank** Danish proverb, “No one can be caught in a place he does not visit.”

L. **Communion:**

M. **Bread -**

1. **Forgive us for paddling fast past** Your warning signs.
2. **Forgive us for not** using our anchors.
3. **Forgive us for not** being filled with **the H.S.** & trusting in our own power.
4. **Forgive us for not** being filled with **Your Word**, **that** we might not sin against thee.

² From Discipleship Journal, Issue #43 (1988), p. 24

5. Forgive us for not fleeing temptation; or fleeing, but leaving a forwarding address.

N. Cup -

1. Thanks for Your warnings, before we're about to go over the edge.
2. Thanks for giving us the same power to fight off temptations, that Jesus had/used.
3. Thanks for sticking to Your Fathers plans for Your Ministry Prep. (help me to do the same)
4. Thanks for overseeing & superintending our baptism, anointing, & temptations.