

Part 2- His Ministry Begins [SLIDE 1]

Opening: If I were the devil I would really be mad. I would be mad to see you here. I would be mad to see that you made it. I would be mad to see that you're engaged. I would be mad to see that you are ready to learn and know more about Godly things. I would be mad that you are preparing to think of living a life reflecting God's plan for you. I would be mad. How could you? No, how dare you wanting to hear again God's story? I have my own story too? I would say.

I have my eyes on you. I have bad plans for you. If I am the devil, that is what I would think at least. If I were the devil, I would gather my fallen army and I will give them your phone numbers, your emails, your addresses and I will give them my notes about your weaknesses one by one.

I would tell my **Doubt Producers** about your bouts of doubt, how I all but had you convince that the Bible has lots of holes and thus a joke. And now look at you and how your faith in God is weak. Their job is to build on those doubts. If I were the devil, I would tell my **Worry and Guilt promoters** to use fear and guilt so that you couldn't sleep at night. I would tell them to scare you with the uncertainty of life, the scrapbook of your sins yesterday or last week to remind you that you are no good for heaven. The devil knows he could not touch your salvation you cannot lose it as you have been bought by the blood of Christ unless you yourself let go. But he could definitely take your energy, your hope, your perspective, your joy.

If I were the devil, I would ask my **Peace Stealers** to work with my other deception specialists to steal your peace of mind. I would also try distraction. I will ask my **BUSY-ness Executives-** to throw at you one thing after another. It could be more work, more sports, more activities, more trips, more parties so that when you come home you will be exhausted. They will make sure you have no or little time to pray or read God's word or even reflect about Him. I will ask my **Envy-stment experts** to make you focus on things that your neighbors have. The next new thing, the newest car, the latest iphone, the best new gadget so that you will focus on getting those things and getting into debt and away from giving to God. Or I will tell my **Entertainment Consultants** to rob you of your time for productive work by tempting you with the latest movies and tv shows to watch. I will instruct them to Netflix you to death, youtube, Spotify, Pandora, I will tell them to suck you into facebook. I will make you live by the screen, counting likes, friends, hearts. Measure self worth by likes on your Instagram so you will not have time to read the Bible.

If I were the devil I would work hard so that you will not have time for God's Word because you might have weapons to use against him. Particularly this part when the ministry of Jesus begins with right at the get go, facing the temptations of the devil.

[SLIDE 2] For **Jesus begins his ministry by facing the enemy.**

Because if you know what he knows and what he does, he can never win the battle to snatch you and destroy your joy, your peace and your relationship with God. When you focus on our story today, you are going to have the weapons to deal with him. But since I am not the devil, that is exactly what we will do.

We will start with Matthew 4:1-11

[SLIDE 3] Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

[SLIDE 4] Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

[SLIDE 5] Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

[SLIDE 6] “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

[SLIDE 7] Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

[SLIDE 8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

[SLIDE 9] Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

[SLIDE 10] Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Set the context- great stories- Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Jesus calming the storm.

I. Jesus confronts the devil in the wilderness; it was scary. It also reveals the strategy of Satan. Matthew 4:1-11

A. Jesus re-enacts the temptation in the Garden of Eden.

B. As the “second Adam,” Jesus won the rematch with the devil.

1. The Bible makes it plain that the origin of evil is with the devil.

2. **[SLIDE 11]** “Devil” is from the word diabolos which comes from a verb which means “to divide.”

He came to split, to separate, to break up the unity in homes, in marriages, in churches, community and most importantly, between you and God. Each time you sense or smell disunity, criticism, lack of cooperation, be careful as the devil might be lurking. That is what he did in Eden. He separated man from God. Loneliness is his payday.

God teaches us to love Him and love our neighbors

Devils teaches us to hate God and hate our neighbors

God teaches us to be generous, the devil teaches us to love ourselves and be selfish.

[SLIDE 12] Serpent (Genesis 3:14, Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

Tempter (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5)

Enemy (Matthew 13:25, 39)

Evil One (Matthew 13:19, 1 John 2:13-14)

[SLIDE 13] Prince of demons (Mark 3:22)

Father of lies (John 8:44)

Murderer (John 8:44)

Roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)

Deceiver (Revelation 12:9)

Dragon (Revelation 12:7, 9; 20:2)

He is not incidental or minor in the story.

He is in the story as the angel who attempted to overthrow God.

[SLIDE 14] Isaiah 14:13-14- His envy on the glory of Jesus was so great.

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

[SLIDE 15] I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

God didn't allow him to-

[SLIDE 16] Ezekiel 28:17 NIV Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

[SLIDE 17] 1 John 3:8 ESV -The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

And so Jesus ministry begins with a showdown with the Devil. And he wants a showdown with all of us. You and I will have a season of tempting and some of you are on it right now. He cannot take your salvation but he can take a lot from you. So you and I are going to need to know how to handle it and thanks to stories in the Bible like the one we read, we do.

[SLIDE 18] 2 Corinthians 2:11 NASB...we are not ignorant of his schemes.

Patton on Rommel- "I read your book." Patton read Rommel's "Infantry Attacks"

We know about Satan. We know the **Devil's Playbook**:

1. **[SLIDE 19] Attack weak spots first.** Matthew 4:2- **After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.**

a. What are you hungry about? Approval, financial success, intimacy, Father's approval, community, acceptance.

Fix it yourself? No

[SLIDE 20] Bring your **weak spots** to Christ so that the devil will not use it against you. **Admit your struggle and surrender it to God.**

2. **[SLIDE 21] Question your identity.** Matthew 4:3-4 **If you are the Son of God,**

You need to prove it. See what you can do. Satan wants us to prove that we are in the family of God. The wonderful truth about the Christian faith is that our relationship with God is His faithfulness and not ours.

We do good because God loves us not to get Him to love us.

Satan wants us to believe that the system is one of merit and not grace. That we can earn our salvation and that system is a subtle mode of legalism. Legalism says, if you do more, maybe, just maybe God will love you. Legalism is a pursuit of innocence and perfection not of forgiveness. And we are not innocent nor are we perfect so we will surely fail. Satan looks for fine print.

He has already decided and have bought your freedom with his son's blood.

3. **[SLIDE 22] Tempt you to show off in church.** Matthew 4:5-6 **Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down.**

Impress others, impress people. He tries to pervert worship so people will worship people, a worship band, a pastor, a worship experience and growth and fame.

4. **[SLIDE 23] Promise heights.** Matthew 4:8-9 **Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."**

Satan desires to be worshipped. Satan is a narcissist and he wants us to worship him or at least stop worshipping God.

If he could convince you to worship anyone or anything short of God he wins. If we depend on a person or thing to give us self worth then we are worship that thing or person.

But now you know what he is up to. Now you have read his strategies.

Christian's Tools:

[SLIDE 24] PRAY- glance at the devil but gaze at Christ.

[SLIDE 25] ARM YOURSELF WITH GOD'S WORD- it is written, it is written. Remember and quote Scripture.

Jesus, each time he was tempted, referred to God and to the Word of God. Jesus answered it is written 3x (Matthew 4:4,7, 10 NIV)

In the book of Jesus, God's book, the Bible is enough.

Jesus did what you could- quote scripture.

[SLIDE 26] REMEMBER THE HOLY SPIRIT- 1 John 4:4 **the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.**