

**“INTO THE FIRE”**  
**CWBC – 9/15/19**  
**Jon Daniels**

**Mark 1:9-13**

**INTRO** – Open your Bibles to Mark 1:9-13 (page \_\_\_ in pew Bible).

Video – “The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness”

**EXPLANATION**

This video fills in some of the info that Mark leaves out in his more, straight-to-the-point style of writing. Remember that his style of writing is an action-packed style of writing meant for a non-Jewish audience. Out of the 40 times that the word “immediately” is used in this book, 2 of them are right here in these 5 verses.

All 4 of the Gospels tell about Jesus’ baptism. That lets us know that this was a very significant moment in Jesus’ earthly life & ministry.

Some may question why Jesus would need to be baptized? After all, John’s baptized people when they confessed their sins. Jesus had no sins to confess. So why was He baptized?

- **To allow his forerunner, J the B, to publicly announce who Jesus was.** Fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy – “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’” (Isa. 40:3 NKJV)
- **To show His identification w/ sinners & setting the example for us.** His baptism was symbolic of our baptism – that when we confess Him as Lord, we are baptized as He was baptized, showing that we are dying to our sins & rising to walk in the newness of the life that He gives.
- **Possibly most important reason: His baptism publicly showed the reality & working of the Trinity – Father, Son, & Holy Spirit – for all future generations to see.** V. 10-11 sum this truth up.

Then v. 12 uses that word “immediately.” That’s where I got the title for the sermon today – “Into the Fire,” b/c immediately after His baptism, Jesus was thrust right into the fires of temptation.

- Temptation often strikes right after a spiritual high. Need to realize that & be ready for that.

1 John 2:16 gives the best NT definition of what sin is: "For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world." (NKJV)

Jesus experienced all of these temptations in this encounter w/ Satan in v. 12-13.

- **1<sup>st</sup> temptation** – turn stones to bread – lust of the flesh – Satan appealed to Jesus' physical hunger & His weakened, compromised condition.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> temptation** – throw Himself off highest pinnacle of temple – the pride of life
- **3<sup>rd</sup> temptation** – showed Jesus all k'doms of the earth & promised to give all of them to Jesus if He would bow down & worship Satan – the lust of the eyes

Satan knew that Jesus was in a very weak & vulnerable state.

- **He was vulnerable b/c of the spiritual high of His baptism.**
- He was vulnerable b/c of the physical weakness of His fasting.
- **He was vulnerable b/c of the loneliness of His wilderness experience.**

Charles Stanley – How to H.A.L.T. temptation – Don't get too:

- Hungry
- Angry
- Lonely
- Tired

Ryan Loveing (Life Action preacher):

- Hurt
- Alone
- Lost
- Tested

**APPLICATION – The point is that temptation is going to come. Jesus experienced temptation & every one of us, as His followers, will, too.** We're not going to beat each other up about it. We're not going to judge each other b/c of it. We're going to support each other & face temptation head on & deal w/ it when it comes. So, let's talk about it.

**Temptation is not Sinful** – We can take comfort in this truth! Temptations are going to come all the time in a multitude of different ways. But those temptations are not sinful. How do we know this? B/c of the very story that we just looked at – the temptation of Jesus.

- **Heb. 4:15 – "Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted**

in every way that we are. But he did not sin!"  
(CEV)

If temptation itself were sinful, then Jesus would have been a sinner, which would have meant that He could not have been our Savior.

But don't let your guard down or look at temptation in a casual, nonchalant way. Satan will be relentless in placing those temptations in your path at just the right time – when you're hungry, or angry, or tired, or lonely.

**Temptation may come Suddenly or it may come Subtly**

"There is a God-shaped emptiness in every soul. Our Creator made us for constant intimacy with Himself. As His children, our deepest longing is to know our Father. Satan cannot remove our desire for God, so he tempts us to fill it with anyone or anything that is not God." (Jim Denison)

And Satan will use whatever means is most effective to tempt us to fill that void.

Just like a coach of a football team is going to call different plays to try to catch their opponent off-guard or in a moment of weakness, so Satan is

going to try different means of temptation to try to fill that void in our lives & take us down.

- **He may drop a bold, brash atomic bomb temptation right in our path.**
  - Like a businessman alone in a hotel lobby who gets propositioned by a woman who is not his wife.
- **Or he may sneak in subtly w/ a constant small, seemingly inconsequential temptation that slowly erodes away our defenses.**
  - Dangerous words that cross our mind: "It's not that big a deal." Watch out! You're in Satan's crosshairs!
  - Just like that undetected & unaddressed leak underneath your home will eventually ruin its foundation, so these small, subtle temptations will ruin our lives if we don't address them & stand against them.

**Temptation should be handled w/ Scripture**

With every temptation Jesus faced, His response was straight from the Scriptures – Deut. 8:3; 6:16; & 6:13. And the Scriptures are our main defense against the temptations Satan brings into our lives.

- **Scripture prepares us for temptation.**
- **Scripture protects us in temptation.**
- **Scripture pushes us through temptation.**

## “Concealed carry”

10 common temptations & sins & verses to combat them:

- **Laziness** – Prov. 14:23 – “All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”
- **Gossip** – Eph. 4:29 – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths...”
- **Bitterness** – Eph. 4:32 – “Get rid of all bitterness...”
- **Lust** – 2 Tim. 2:22 – “Flee youthful lusts, & pursue righteousness, faith, love, & peace w/ those who call on God from a pure heart.”
- **Not taking care of body** – 1 Cor. 6:19 – “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in your...?”
- **Greed/\$ issues** – 1 Tim. 6:10 – “...the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil...”
- **Anger/Hatred** – James 1:19 – “...everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, & slow become angry...”

- **A Critical spirit** – Matt. 7:1 – “Judge not, that you be not judged...”
- **Racism** – 1 Sam. 16:7 – “...Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart...”
- **Worry/Anxiety** – Phil. 4:19 – “My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

## CONCLUSION

### TIMELINE:

- John announced Jesus
- Jesus was baptized by John
- Satan tempted Jesus
- Jesus defeated Satan

If you a Christ-follower, you have a timeline for your life too:

- You hear the Gospel
- You respond & believe
- You are baptized
- You experience temptation
- B/c Jesus defeated Satan, you, too, can defeat Satan!