

JESUS AND THE WORD OF GOD

(Matthew 4:1-11)

INTRODUCTION:

A. The purpose of this sermon:

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B. As Christians we need to imitate Jesus (Matt. 16:24)

1. He left us His example for us to follow

C. Matthew 4 represents a critical event in the life of Jesus in this earth, but notice the attitude He demonstrated towards the word of God (the expression of His will)

1. Four times we see in the event in Matthew 4:1-11, "It is written..." Christ's attitude with regards to the word of God, not to the thundering word of God heard in the Mount Sinai, but rather still powerful His "silent" written word, the Bible.
2. We cannot overcome temptation WITHOUT the word of God but also in ...

D. Matthew 4, there are three basic rules in regards with the interpretation of the word of God, the Bible:

1. The authority of the word of God (4:4)
2. The harmony in the word of God (4:7)
3. The practical purpose in the word of God (4:10)

I. THE AUTHORITY IN THE WORD OF GOD (4:4)

A. "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word... (Deut. 8:3)

1. The future obligation, for example...
 - a. (Exodus 20:3-4) NASV – "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth."
 - b. (Luke 10:27) NASV – "And he answered and said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"
 - 1) (Luke 10:28) NASV – "And He said to him, 'you have answered correctly; **DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE**'"
 - 2) (Luke 10:37) NASV – "And he said, 'The one who showed mercy toward him.' And Jesus said to him, '**Go and do the same.**'"

B. Where did this authority come from? From the Creator, Jesus

1. (Genesis 17:1) NASV – "Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless'"
2. The commandments are based in the nature of God, because He is the Almighty God!

C. It is not hard to understand this authority

1. Jesus and Satan understood this authority very well
2. Jesus' questions to the lawyer in (Luke 10:25) imply understanding:
 - a. What? (Luke 10:26) – Something objective, not an experience, nor a feeling

- b. How? (**Luke 10:26**) – This objective information can be understood, correctly or incorrectly
- c. Jesus' response acknowledging the response of the lawyer to be correct, demonstrates that the reader of the Bible can also understand the will of God (**Luke 10:28, 36**)
3. Common sense manifested in the Roman centurion, he was able to understand this authority as well (**Matthew 8:9**).

II. THE HARMONY IN THE WORD OF GOD (4:7)

A. Perhaps the temptation of Christ here is not very obvious at first

1. Not so much Satan's saying to Jesus, "...throw Yourself down..."
2. But rather, that Jesus had responded to the temptation of Satan with the Scriptures. (Satan said, "Very well, if you are going to be using scriptures, follow this one"

B. The perversion of the Scriptures by Satan:

1. A partial use of the word of God
 - a. To isolate a portion of God's word so that it can exclude the other part of it.
 - b. Faith ("alone") (**Romans 3:28**) NASV – "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law" Or grace (**Ephesians 2:5**) NASV – "even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)", to exclude baptism (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**; etc)
2. To take away the conditions of the promises
 - a. Notice in the context of **Psalm 91** and see the conditions set therefore!
 - b. Also, there are more conditions set before in the context of **Deut. 6:16** on the passage Jesus gives to Satan on **Matthew 4:7**.
3. Another perversion of the Scriptures is to convert the figurative in the text to literal – notice (**Psalm 91:1, 7, 13**)

C. Jesus teaches us the first principle on the harmony of the word of God (Matthew 4:7)

1. If the interpretation of the passage contradicts others passages then the interpretation of the passage is incorrect.
2. "It is written..." – In reality the Bible is a chain of "It is written" and we must sum up what is written in order to do the blessed will of God
3. Jesus demonstrates that the "distance" between **Deut. 6:13** (if you will) and **Psalm 91** is NOT THERE, for both of the passages must taken together.
4. An example: (**Matthew 5:48**) NASV – "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." The previous context must be taken into consideration verses **43-47**. It is NOT an absolute perfection as God is, but rather to be **COMPLETE**, not lacking love for others to the extent of even loving our enemies.

III. THE PRACTICAL PURPOSE IN THE WORD OF GOD (4:10)

A. "You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only"

B. The purpose of the revelation of the word of God to mankind

1. To make possible our adoration to God
 - a. By this verse God tells us our very purpose in this life, is to worship God. Here is the question some often make, "what is my purpose in this life? Or why am I here for?" Here is the response to those question and many others alike.
 - b. God tells us how we should worship Him (**John 4:23-24**) not in ignorance but knowing who God is! This worship to God can also include suffering (**Matthew 16:21-27**)

- C. **The rule: the word of God is to be practice, the word of God is NOT for speculations or is not a theory (Deut. 29:29) NASV – “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law”**

CONCLUSION:

- A. **With respect to the three basic characteristics of the word of God, we need to respond to them correctly:**
1. God’s authority – the most difficult response (we must break our will in order to do the will of God)
 2. The harmony of the Scriptures – it requires much time, it requires reading, studying and meditating upon the word of God. How much time am I willing to give to God, to read His word?
 3. The practical purpose of the word of God – actually an easy response that is if we have already accepted number 1, if we have already accepted God’s authority, His word as the ultimate standard in my life. As the bench mark, by what I need to measure everything in my life, decisions, and the way I should go (**Psalm 32:8-9**). Let us ask to God for wisdom so that we can put to practice His word (**James 1:5**).
- B. **Satan wants us to believe that we are keeping the word of God when in reality we are NOT. If I want to follow the word of God, then I must do what He commands me to do, on everything and not just only what is pleasing to me.**
1. Let us not overlook the context of the verses and take the verse out of context
 2. Consider the dangerous this can be, your salvation!
- C. **We cannot receive Jesus if we do not receive His word (John 12:48) NASV – “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”**

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