

Sermon Outline

BAPTIZED NATION

GOD ABOVE ALL: THE BAPTIZED VALUES

(MATTHEW 4:1-10)

I. The Values of Holy Royalty

II. The Baptism of our Lord Jesus (Mt 3)

- A. The context of Matthew 4 is Jesus' baptism.
- B. John's baptism was a fulfilment of Ezekiel 36:25.
- C. John is puzzled by Jesus' request for baptism because Jesus was righteous (Mt 3:14).
- D. What happened after Jesus was baptized, "fulfilling all righteousness"?
 - 1. God speaks to Jesus: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Ps 2:7; Is 42:1)
 - 2. God bestows the Holy Spirit on Jesus.

III. The Holy Spirit Leads Jesus into the Wilderness (Mt 4:1)

- A. After he is anointed King, Jesus is sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.
- B. The wilderness is loaded with meaning for Israel.
 - 1. Following Israel's complaints, God promises judgment on Israel (Num 14).
 - 2. Israel is condemned to wander the wilderness for forty years (Num 14:34).
 - 3. The wilderness was associated with sin, failure, and God's judgment.
- C. Because the wilderness was associated with death, it was also associated with evil—and Satan/Azazel (Lev 16).
- D. The testing of Jesus was Israel's second chance.
- E. In the wilderness, Jesus *was* Israel, obeying where Israel failed to obey.

IV. The Temptations Begin (Mt 4:2-3)

- A. Jesus had already been fasting for forty days and nights—and he was hungry (4:2).
- B. It was at this point of great physical weakness that Satan begins his attack!

V. The First Temptation: Prove Your Divine Sonship (Mt 4:3-4)

- A. The first test had to do with Jesus' royal identity.
- B. Satan's proposition: Prove that you are the Son of God by turning stones to bread.
- C. Jesus' rebuttal: YHWH's Word comes before even our physical needs! (Dt 6:16)

VI. The Second Temptation: Prove Your Trust in God (Mt 4:5-7)

- A. Satan takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and tries to get Jesus to jump.
- B. Satan's proposition: Prove your sonship by proving your trust in God's Word—jump!
—Satan cites Psalm 91:11-12 to show that God will save Jesus if he does.
- C. Jesus' rebuttal: Do not test YHWH! (Dt 6:13)
 - 1. Jesus teaches us that trusting in God means not putting him to the test.
 - 2. We do not need to test God's love because God has already said that he loves us.
- D. Jesus is also showing us that the right way of reading God's Word is in a spirit of trust, not in a spirit of skepticism that demands more "proof."
 - 1. Psalm 91:11-12 was not meant to give assurance to arrogant people who are out to test God's Word.
—It was written for weak children of God who need the comfort of their Father.
 - 2. Satan's use of Psalm 91 was already out of accord with God's intentions.

VII. The Third Temptation: Kingship for Idolatry (Mt 4:8-10)

- A. Satan takes Jesus to a very high mountain and shows Jesus "all the kingdoms of the world."

- B. Satan’s proposition: Worship me and the nations will be yours.
- C. This is an indicator of Satan’s true desire—to be the supreme god of the nations.
 - 1. All cultures and civilizations are under the influence of Satan.
 - a. Jesus calls him “the ruler of the age” (Jn 12:31).
 - b. Paul calls him “the god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4) and “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2).
 - 2. Now that Jesus has been given universal authority, Satan’s power is broken.
 - 3. But until the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, Satan still functions as a great world ruler, a cosmic power (Eph 6:12).
- D. Satan could have given Jesus world power—so long as he served Satan.
- E. Jesus’ rebuttal: Only worship and serve YHWH your God! (Dt 6:13)

VIII. Valuing God Above All

All that Jesus did in the wilderness was done for us (Rom 5:19). Jesus shares his victory over Satan with those who trust in him (Eph 2:2). Jesus’ perfect obedience has saved us from our sins.

But now that we have been joined to Jesus, the values of Jesus must also become ours. Like Jesus, we must value God above all things, all prizes. We must value God’s holy Word above our own desires and needs. We must value God’s promises, not doubting or testing them. We must value God above all the glories of this age and all created beings.

What are some of your most cherished dreams? Physical strength, beauty, and health? The desire for marriage? A particular position in your company? A certain job? The approval of your spouse? The future success of your children? Security for your future? God must be more important than all these things. We must receive God as our supreme Health, Beauty, Strength, Glory, Success, and Security. We must have God as our All.