

June 21st 2009: Matt 3:13-4:4: Temptations of Jesus(1) 'Let God Be The Baker not You'

He stood in line to be baptized.....

A 30 year old man come by himself.....to be immersed like.....waters of repentance

→**nothing special about him**

For sure....to any who cared to ask...**His** desire 2do this act would have been obvious

For this man had traveled over **80 k.....**to reach this place of cleansing

Indeed.....those around him who heard his accent.....saw his travel stained....

& who realised how far.....**MAY** have presumed....that his need 4 cleansing was great

HOW WRONG THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN !!!!

He did not come for cleansing.....for He was without sin:

John the Baptizer knew that.....in fact he felt that Jesus ...baptize him

& it was only when Jesus explain...that baptism for Him was not to gain righteousness

.but was for them both.....an act of..... →**Something** they must do....2B obedient
that he consented

- **By this moment** in time John would have baptized hundreds
He would have seen many.....go down into.....with tears of shame and guilt....as they
And emerge glowing with a new heart of joy.....A sense of being cleansed

HE KNEW THAT IT WAS A GREAT WORK OF GOD THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN

But on that day when he baptized Jesus.....When the heavens opened and.....

Then He knew **the** prime reason why God ...had called him to baptize.

His ministry to the people was fantastic.....

But the part he played.....in mission of the Son of Godwas awesome

In John 1:31 he tells us:-

**I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing
with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."**

That's what the baptism of...meant for Israel...**The** revealing of their rescuer/redeemer

But for Jesus it meant →**The public** giving of Himself as God the Son
to the fulfilling of His part in the Plan to save humanity:

The plan purposedin the mind and heart of the Triune GOD→
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT..... before the creation

When He left His dwelling in Nazareth.....and headed for the Jordan....3 or 4 days
He understood that that part of His life.....over

His mission would now begin in earnest.....in the muddy depths of the Jordan
...and **Luke tells us**.....that it began with Jesus praying

Luke 3:21-22

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

→ **I think** I can guess what Jesus prayed that day.....cant you ???

Here I am Father....in this body you have prepared 4 me....Ready do your will

And the immediate response.....is God the HS descending...in a form that all can see
And God the Father.....calling out in a voice that all could hear....(matt)

"This is my Son, whom I love: with Him I am well pleased"

• **As I was thinking about Jesus leaving Nazereth.....**

Heading to that place where His mission.....**I thought** about the film Gone with Wind
How it begins.....news about the war....rush to sign up

But much later.....when the war is seen in all it's shame..death...sorrow

Rhett Butler decides to join up.....**Does so** with no false expectations

He does so---to be true to Himself

Jesus was awarethat before Him stretched.....**both** physically and spiritually.....
..**pain** and suffering—conflict and battle...**that** had to be endured

Yet in enlisting publicly for His Mission.....He does so.....not to be true to Himself
But to be true to the Love that God in three.....**has** for you and for me

If you have ever been tempted.....to think that God could not love you....
does not care about you.....**does** not wish to rescue

then consider again this scene at the Jordan River
with God the Father—the Son—the Holy Spirit

alerting this world to the fact.....that they will do all that is needed to save your soul

So with His baptism.....His mission begins.....**and** straightaway the HS leads Him
Into the most barren and desolate place possible

For the first assignment of the Messiah.....is to be tempted
Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

- **Note carefully**.....that it was not the Devil who went looking for Jesus
It was Jesus who was sent out to face the Devil.....**and to humiliate Him**
- **Back in the Garden of Eden**.....with the first Adam.....**the Evil** one sought them
And in a beautiful garden.....not a harsh desert
In a place where man had all the food he could ever want...**Satan** used the same ploy

By casting doubt on God's words to them.....he tempted them to do their own
→ **to listen to him**.....and disobey God.....**And they sinned**....and the evil one led

Now comes Jesus.....The second Adam
hungry after 40 days of fasting.....**and** surely Satan felt it would be all so easy—4:3
**The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God,
tell these stones to become bread."**

That "if" can be a little misleading.....It is better trans as "since"
Satan knew who Jesus was.....God had just proclaimed it

His temptation was aimed.....at causing Jesus to put His trust **in Himself**
And not in the Father

You are the Son of God.....You are hungry
You have the right to make things a little easier for yourself.....Turn these stones...

You know it wont really affect your mission.....
You still will be completely trusting.....big things
And God will understand.....He is your Father and He loves you

- **But what both Satan and Jesus knew**....was that Jesus could only redeem
If He lived completely as a man.....**and as a man** relied completely on God

God to provide for Him.....to guide and lead Him....to enable Him

- **So Jesus responded to....with words from Deuteronomy 8:3**
Words spoken by Moses to the Israelites in the desert

"God allowed you to become hungry".....Moses had told.....**Then** He gave manna

In order to teach you: that

'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

In other words.....What is the benefit of having bread in the wilderness experiences
Without having God.....and all that He supplies

And to have God ...you must be obedient to Him.....**you must** trust Him to give→
In His Time...and in His Way.....→all you need

You see...what Jesus was saying to Satan....

What is the use of having bread.....If means disobedience

When obedience means.....I can trust in God to provide all my needs...**and He** unable

- **And it is right here that we find the Lesson....**
that Jesus desires to teach us...thro tempt

Jesus knew.....that when a Christian faces a tough time in life...partic in ministry
Satan would use the same approach against him

You are a Christian.....You shouldn't have it this hard.....

You shouldn't suffer like that..... shouldn't have to put up with the attacks

You shouldn't be left to battle alone.....when others seem to do nothing

- **God has obviously forgotten you.....Or perhaps** he wants you to help yourself
Give yourself a break.....You don't have to be holy all the time...A little sin wont hurt

Give up that ministry.....its too demanding.....Walk away....commitment

Stop caring about that person.....They just using you

Put yourself first.....Turn those stones of giving.....bread.....getting

And Jesus says..... trust your Father....He cares about you....He doesn't ..burnt out
He will never let you be tested beyond that.....bear...but will provide a way

Above all remain true to...Your father is even now preparing His angels ...as He did 4
Because He loves you.....and will never leave you.

