

MATTHEW: sermon study guide

Pastor: Kent Priebe

Date: February 22 / 23, 2020

Sermon Title: Matthew: Tempted – Walking in Victory – Part 5

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. The last four weeks we have been looking at the temptations of Jesus and how He defeated the devil at his own 'game'. Share how you were able to defeat the enemy over the last couple of weeks.
2. Pastor Kent asked the question, "How did I end up here?" pointing to times and situations where we have allowed Satan to defeat us. What thoughts and feelings did you have during these times?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read *Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8*

3. Why would repentance be one of the first recorded instructions that Jesus gave? What is its role in realizing victory over the activities of the enemy in our lives?
4. Pastor Kent said that knowing the truth about who God is, is crucial in resisting sin in our lives. Look in Scripture for passages that tell us the truth of what He is like. List them. In what ways does that knowledge help us defeat Satan?
5. Knowing the truth about who we are as Christ followers is also important. Look in Scripture for passages that tell us the truth of who we are in Christ. List them. How does that knowledge help us defeat Satan?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

6. It is one thing to know the answers to the above three questions, it is quite another to put them into practice. What impact would a sincere practice of repentance and resisting the enemy have in: Our lives? Our church? Our city and beyond?
7. Pastor Kent emphasized the importance of grace from God in our lives. What role does grace play as we are confronted by the world around us, as well as what rises up from deep within us?

Link to Other Matthew Sermons:

<https://www.cschurch.ca/sermons/matthew-tempted/>

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pastor Kent quoted Martin Luther: "When our Lord and Master said 'Repent', He said that the whole life of the Christian should be one of repentance."

As you go through your week, how will you put this statement into practice? What do you have to change to make this a practical reality? What would be some of the results in your life?

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 4:17

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

1 John 3:8

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Mark 1:15

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

James 4:7-8

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

MATTHEW: sermon study summary

Matthew: Tempted – Walking in Victory – Part 5

Pastor Kent Priebe

February 22/23, 2020

In the past weeks we have examined how Satan's best efforts to tempt Jesus were defeated. When Jesus walked out of the wilderness in victory, He was beginning to destroy the strategies and agendas of Satan (1 John 3:8).

How do we walk in victory as Jesus did? Jesus, like John the Baptist, preached repentance, "for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:2, 4:17, Mark 1:15). Jesus invites us to draw near to God, return to Him and receive His forgiveness. Repentance is the way to walk in victory.

What does repentance look like?

Repentance requires that we resist evil.

God intends that we partner with Him against sin and evil. The word "resist" means **to oppose** and **stand against**, as soldiers do in fighting the enemy. James wrote, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (4:7). Peter told us to, "Resist him (Satan), standing firm in your faith (1 Peter 5:8). In practice, we effectively resist Satan when we follow Paul's directive: "Put on the full armor of God, so that...you may be able to stand your ground" (Ephesians 6:13).

Repentance restores to us what is true about God.

Satan is out to destroy truth of who God is. The truth is that God is loving, caring, and merciful. He accepts us with unconditional love and grace. He is present and available and is steadfast and reliable.

However, Satan tries to distort our view of God and believe the opposite, and so to keep us from knowing God and developing an intimate relationship with Him.

The way to walk in victory is to believe the truth about God. What we think and believe about God will affect our thoughts and feelings and everything we do. It will impact how we work and spend our time and money. It will influence what we believe about the social issues in our day. It will shape how we love our spouse and how we parent. And it will influence how we pray and read God's word.

We need God's discernment. Paul prayed that that God would give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we will know Him better and grow in our knowledge of Him (Ephesians 1:17). This knowledge will change everything for us.

Repentance restores the truth of who we are.

Who are you? We all have identities, in our vocation, family relationships, marital status, nationality, etc. But our most important identity comes from who God says we are. Scriptures declare that we are His workmanship, His masterpiece. As His child, we are members of Christ's body. We cannot be separated from God's extravagant love and are free from condemnation. We have direct access to Him. We have His Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind so that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

In return, our part is to believe what God says about us. As we own these identity statements, we can live according to His identity for us.

Repentance humbles us to embrace God's grace.

Jesus' sacrifice wins the victory over sin. Jesus makes it possible to turn back to God in an invitation into grace. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and he will come near to you."

Confess your sin, receive his forgiveness and then humbly embrace His grace and goodness which leads to repentance (Romans 4:2). Pour out your heart in thanks for how He loves you. Let Him draw near to you. As you do so, you will walk the path of those "who are humble and contrite in heart" (Isaiah 66:2).