

Morning Worship

August 25, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Scripture Reading Romey Keith Davis

Hymn # 16 *O Worship the King* Romey/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Hymn # 217 *Oh, How I Love Jesus* Romey/People

Offering Prayer LeRoy Bush

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music

Hymn # 15 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Romey/People

Hymn # 495 *Serve the Lord with Gladness* Romey/People

Special Music

Message Bro. Allan

Hymn # 307 *Just As I Am* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 384 *The Bond of Love* Romey/People

Jesus Out-Duels the Devil

Matthew 4:1-11

A single brush with temptation may lead to an act or decision that ruins families, devastates churches and incapacitates our fellowship with God. Prove yourself faithful in the midst of temptation. That's a pretty good statement to heed.

One sagging electrical line near Cleveland, Ohio, connected with a tree branch at 3:32 p.m. on August 14, 2003, beginning a chain of events that led to the largest blackout in American history.

According to a comprehensive study, the failure of this single transmission line caused a utility company in southern Ohio to overload and seal itself off from the now infamous power grid. To the north, this created a huge need for power, and Cleveland began pulling an unsustainable amount of electricity from Michigan and Ontario, knocking out more transmission lines and generating plants. When the demand for power reached New York, power plants there sealed themselves from the grid in order to protect their own systems. This, however, created a new problem: New York City

(ironically) had too much electricity and overloaded its own system. The result was history's largest shutdown.

Isn't it amazing? One sagging power line touches a tree branch, and blacks out a coastline over 460 miles away – how is that for a ripple effect? The truth is, seemingly small actions can lead to devastating consequences.

The same is true of sin—a brush with temptation leads to an act or decision that can eventually ruin families, devastate churches, and incapacitate our fellowship with God. Open Your Bible to Matthew 4.

We tend to think of temptation as the influence of evil in our lives, and perhaps in some way it is. One must ask, however, how we explain Adam and Eve's temptation and subsequent sin; after all, they had no evil in their lives when they faced temptation. What about Job? He was tempted beyond imagination—what evil existed in his life?

Most importantly, how do we explain the temptation of Jesus? Today we consider his temptation in order to develop a deeper understanding of temptation itself: its source, purpose, and role in our spiritual formation.

When it comes to how He dealt with the Devil, Jesus is certainly our hero. The Scriptures describe how Jesus changed people's lives by casting demons out of them. This authority teaches us these things.

1. The Definition of Temptation.

One of the Old Testament words used for temptation referred to the testing or proving of armor, as in 1 Samuel 17:39. Then in Genesis 22:2 the word temptation characterizes God's command to Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering.

A similar use of the term refers to God's testing of people (Exodus 16:4, 20:20; Deuteronomy 8:2,16; Psalm 26:2) as he did in Egypt, performing terrible and wonderful acts to test the will of the Pharaoh. We must note however, that the Old Testament rarely (if ever) applies this word to Satan's act of enticing people into sin.

Interestingly, the Old Testament makes it clear that man can tempt God, though Scripture expressly forbids the practice. In this understanding, man is not enticing God to sin, but rather testing him in order to challenge His will.

The New Testament word for temptation also applies to man's testing of God. Peter uses it to describe the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:9; yet, in our Gospel lesson of the morning, Satan leads Jesus into the wilderness in order to tempt Him. With all these possibilities, what should we understand about temptation? Does man tempt God, God tempt man, or does Satan tempt both? Is temptation the work of Satan, or the work of God? Who is in charge here?

2. The Source of Temptation.

To understand the source of temptation, we must understand it (in the context of scripture) as a test. There is ample evidence to support that definition. Once accepted, we can answer the source question: Paul gives us valuable insight into temptation in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9:

He recognizes that his "thorn in the flesh" is under God's sovereign control (vv. 8-9); but the "thorn" itself is a "messenger of Satan" (v. 7). Therefore God may allow His people to be tested, and in some sense, He may even bring the test to them (Job). But Satan alone entices believers to sin, to divert Christians from God's ways and will. Because He allows and controls this, we may see God as the source of temptation.

3. The Purpose of Temptation.

We may ask then, why would God allow Satan to tempt (test) us? The answer lies in discovering the purpose of temptation.

God calls us to holy lives; conforming to the image of Christ and living as he taught us to live. We call the process of learning to live the Christian life our spiritual formation. As we seek God's will, we submit to His authority, and carry out the work He desires us to engage in.

Occasionally during this formation, He tests us to determine our progress. If we are faithful, we press on; if not, He corrects (sometimes disciplines) us and brings us into submission so He may continue to prepare us for ministry. Temptation allows God to evaluate our spiritual progress.

4. The Role of Temptation.

Christ knew no sin, yet the devil tempted Him in the wilderness. Matthew tells us Jesus fasted for forty days before the temptation began. At this moment, we should assume Jesus' earthly body was weak from lack of food.

Fasting is one of the spiritual disciplines. It is a means of attaining spiritual growth (formation) in the life of God's children. Scholars agree that a primary role of temptation in Jesus' life was to expose Him to it so He might experience first hand what humanity experiences from Satan.

Temptation is analogous to a whetstone, the abrasive stone that sharpens a knife or an axe. The more contact the blade has with the stone the sharper it becomes, making it very effective in the work for which it was intended. The downside is that the stone sharpens the blade by removing some of its surface. As you draw the knife across the stone, you actually forfeit some of its substance. The upside is, what is left is always sharpened. No matter how much substance is removed, the edge improves. So is the role of temptation. Temptation sharpens the believer, improving efforts in spiritual formation.

Conclusion:

God allowed Christ to be tempted so that He would [1] understand human weakness, [2] awaken His compassion for man in his struggle with holiness, and [3] allow Him to demonstrate His power over Satan, even on "his turf." Without His victory, He would not be our Savior and Lord. Who would follow Him if He were no more powerful than we are?

Satan uses the same temptations on us that he used on Jesus:

- a. "You are entitled to it" (3)
- b. "God won't mind...just this once" (5-6)
- c. "Power is the answer to everything" (8-9)

A little boy was spending his Saturday morning playing in his sandbox. He had with him his box of cars and trucks, his plastic pail, and a shiny, red plastic shovel. In the process of creating roads and tunnels in the soft sand, he discovered a large rock in the middle of the sandbox. The lad dug around the rock, managing to dislodge it from the dirt.

With no little bit of struggle, he pushed and nudged the rock across the sandbox by using his feet (He was a very small boy and the rock was very huge). When the boy got the rock to the edge of the sandbox, however, he found that he couldn't roll it up and over the little wall. Determined, the little boy shoved, pushed, and pried, but every time he thought he had made some progress, the rock tipped and then fell back into the sandbox. The little boy grunted, struggled, pushed, shoved--but his only

reward was to have the rock roll back, smashing his chubby fingers. Finally he burst into tears of frustration.

All this time the boy's father watched from his living room window as the drama unfolded. At the moment the tears fell, a large shadow fell across the boy and the sandbox. It was the boy's father. Gently but firmly he said, "Son, why didn't you use all the strength that you had available?"

Defeated, the boy sobbed back, "But I did, Daddy, I did! I used all the strength that I had!"

"No, son," corrected the father kindly. "You didn't use all the strength you had. You didn't ask me." With that the father reached down, picked up the rock, and removed it from the sandbox.

Do you have "rocks" in your life that need to be removed? Are you discovering that you don't have what it takes to lift them? There is One who is always available to us and willing to give us the strength we need.

You are not always strong enough to tell the devil NO. At those times we must call on our Father God.

OUR CHALLENGE: RESPONSE IS CRITICAL

1. Prepare yourself to face temptation. Those who prepare to battle their enemies are capable opponents when attacked. Know your weakness; study Scripture to learn the Biblical response.
2. Know that temptation is always present. The alert, aware Christian is seldom surprised. Remove yourself from situations that may cause you to sin. If you are serious about your spiritual formation, you can expect some "testing" along the way.
3. Rejoice in expectation of passing the test. A positive, prayerful attitude toward testing is fundamental to success. Remember the purpose of tests in the life of the believer. James said that believers could rejoice in trial because they detect God's good purpose (James 1:2-4, 12).
4. Pray in advance for God's help. This is the difference between prayers of purpose and prayers of panic. You won't pass every test; but you will find God's presence in each one. 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us that He controls temptation, giving us a way to avoid or endure it for our benefit.

Our Response Is Critical!

Who Jesus Is

Every day I receive from faithgateway.com an email called "devotionals daily." A variety of authors and Christian leaders contribute to these encouraging thoughts. One day this week the daily offering came from the brand-new devotional book entitled *Soul Fuel*, written by Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls. You might recognize that name. He has been featured on the TV adventure show *Man vs. Wild*. I copied the following from the email. Hope it encourages you.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

When I was growing up," Madonna once said, "Jesus Christ was like a movie star, my favorite idol of all."¹

Napoleon Bonaparte went further: "I know men, and I tell you Jesus Christ was not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and other religions the distance of infinity."²

And then there was novelist H. G. Wells: "I am an historian, I am not a believer. But, this penniless preacher from Galilee is irresistibly the centre of history."³

There has never been a human quite like Jesus. He towers above us all in goodness and courage, in impact and influence. The greatest artists, leaders, and thinkers, all put together, are dwarfed by Him.

Yet Jesus did not come to impress us. He said He had come to save us, in total humility, as God come down among us. If He is who He says He is, and the Gospel is real, then this is very good news. He simply wants us to learn to reach out and trust Him to help and calm us, to forgive and restore us. If we are to live fully and empowered, then this has to be the first step.

So wherever you are with God — whether you are searching, are wanting more, or have turned your back and are walking away — this verse is truth: *The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* — Luke 19:10

Who Was Jesus?

At some point in life, most people find themselves asking this simple question. We all have to make up our minds, just as people did back when He was walking on earth. For them — and us too — there seem to be only three credible, possible answers:

He is out of His mind. (Mark 3:21)

He is possessed by Beelzebul! (Mark 3:22)

[He is] the Son of God. (Mark 3:11)

In other words, He was either insane, evil, or God.

I used to think, Couldn't He simply have been a good teacher and good guy? But then I looked at His life and words. Do good teachers repeatedly claim to be God? Do they claim to be one with the Father? Do they say they have come to die for all of mankind? Do they raise people from the dead and walk on water and calm storms? Those are strong claims and strong deeds.

C. S. Lewis reasoned that, "a man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be [insane]... or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice... But, let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."⁴

Who we decide Jesus is to us is a big question with big implications for our lives. But if we study the overwhelming and compelling evidence and then choose to believe that He is who He said He is—if we can take that leap of faith and ask, "Are You really there, and are You really good?" — It can be the start of an incredible journey and adventure. An adventure into life.

That's why the offer He made two thousand years ago still stands for us today: *Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* — Matthew 11:28

Even today, for you and me, right now — that invitation has the power to change everything. If we let Him, He seeks us, saves us, strengthens us, supports us, and shows us how to live every day.

Footnotes

1. Scott Cohen, "Madonna: The 1985 'Like a Virgin' Cover Story," *Spin*, May 1985.

2. Clayton Kraby, "Napoleon Bonaparte's View of Jesus," *Reasonable Theology*, <https://reasonabletheology.org/napoleon-bonapartes-view-of-jesus/>.

3. Thomas A. Harris, *I'm OK—You're OK* (New York: Quill, 2004).

4. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: HarperOne, 2001). *Mere Christianity*: copyright © C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. 1942, 1943, 1944, 1952. Extracts reprinted by permission.

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, August 25, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LeRoy Bush, Don Sharp, Ken Nice, Gary Yarbrough

Alternate: Joe Coats

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 28

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, John Lewis, George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 4

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

September 11 — Prayer Warriors 10 am

September 14 — Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Apple Festival, Raymore, MO 1-3 pm

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting, 4:00 pm,

McCarthy

September 23 — Lanes leave for Israel

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. We continue to study some of the commands of Jesus. Come study together with our church family.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We are really enjoying the *Anxious for Nothing* study by Max Lucado. But there's only one session left. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Apple Festival 2019

First Baptist Church

Raymore, MO

September 14

1:00 pm—3:00pm

Urgent Prayer Need

Youth Sunday School Teacher

Is God calling you to be a part of building up our youth program and leading teens in discipleship? Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too! For more information, talk to Bro. Allan.

Back to School

Please be in prayer for students and teachers as our public and private schools are back in session for the 2019-2020 school year.

For the Record-

Attendance: August 18, 2019

Sunday School.....	22
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	22
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	34
Sunday Night Concert	12
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 850.78
Long Family – July	\$ 165.00

Offering Received by Mail:

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

September Member Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey (Mayse) Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

Al and Karen Shirley
September 26, 2009

Prayer Requests ...

John Lewis
Jack and Flo Conard
Jeanette Shirley
Brigida and Jim Winans
Curtis Conard
Chuck and Gloria Stewart

Family and Friends of Alicia McKinnon
June Fritchle—infection recovery
Mike Green—knee recovery
Lillie Williams—surgery recovery
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son-PTL!
Lisa Bowers—Conard's daughter-PTL!
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
The Waters Family Kevin Duty
Betty Campbell Tim Izer
Dottie Wildberger Ann Riddle
Keon McKahan Nellie Reynolds
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
