



Predictable foe (3:13 – 4:25)

Matthew 3: 13 – 17

- God is never in a hurry and is very patient.
- Christians tend to rush from task to task but God calls us to also be patient.
- God's timing is always perfect, He never wastes time; Isaiah 49 vs. 2-3.
- Jesus spent a lot of time waiting patiently as God prepared Him like an arrow, before shooting Him out at the perfect time.
- Jesus spent those years working hard and caring for His mother and siblings.
 - ❖ Work is a good thing, a gift from God.
- He watched as almost all friends got married and knew the shame of being single and childless at thirty years old.
- He lived with all the same day-to-day temptations as us and yet he never sinned.
- Jesus had been perfectly righteous yet needed to be baptised to 'fulfill' all righteousness.
- He spent time with his Father and received training for public ministry.
- He learned to call on God His Father something no ordinary Jew dared to do.
- By the time of His baptism he was able to dispatch Satan with 3 verses and taught more powerfully than a rabbi.
 - ❖ God takes time to prepare His servants → Isaiah 49.
- God honours a man who waits → *"This is my Son whom I love; with him I'm well pleased"*
- Jesus was then anointed with the Holy Spirit so He could begin his ministry in earnest.
- Jesus sets an example so we can be free from striving, impatience and fruitlessness.
 - ❖ We need to walk the way of Christ in order to prosper and be fruitful.
- We need to spend time studying scripture devoting hours to prayer and worship so as to be filled more with the Holy Spirit.
- Christian waiting isn't being passive → Isaiah 30 vs. 15

Matthew 4:1 – 11

- Satan is predictable and has been the enemy from the beginning and lacks the innovative mind of the Creator.
- The Holy Spirit led Jesus to be tested in order to set an example of overcoming our predictable foe.
- The Devil has predictable goals, what he lacks in innovation he uses imitation and has established his own mimic of the Kingdom of God.

- Satan made three attacks to try and make Jesus desert God's path.
 1. Rely on own strength instead of God's → **depend on God alone.**
 2. Manipulate God into action → **obey God's plan and timing.**
 3. Promise for all nations under his control → **only worship and serve God alone.**

- God calls us on a path of humility where we depend on him, obey him and serve him alone.

- The name devil comes from the Greek word for deceiver = very subtle using exaggeration and misrepresentation.
- By God's grace; Jesus sits next to us, predicting Satan's next move and showing us the correct action to take, i.e. to remember the true message of Scripture and to quote its powerful words.
- Satan will call off the attack when stabbed enough times by the Sword of Truth.
- The devil is predictable in timing.
- He tempted Jesus at the end of the 40 day fast when He was at His weakest;-
Bread/food = hunger
Crowds = loneliness
Nations = poverty
 - ❖ He knows the vulnerable places in your heart and knows the perfect time to exploit them.
- Temptation is a slow-burning fuse to demolish your life, not your friend.

- Jesus was tempted and won; He encourages that temptation is normal but not invincible – Hebrews 2 vs. 18.
- God can use trials of temptation to refine us, draw us close and entrust us more with God's Kingdom.

- Temptations need not be our place of defeat but our springboards to victory.
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 8 vs. 2 – 5

Matthew 4:17 – 25

- Jesus knew He was going to die and so He had to recruit and train a team of men who would spread the Gospel once He had gone.
- He chose a surprising group – the unimpressive 'Dirty Dozen', which included several fishermen, a tax collector and a religious terrorist.
- Jesus chose eleven despised Galileans.
 - ❖ Matter of fact the only respectable Judean was Judas Iscariot.
- The twelve show us that no one is too weak to follow Jesus, only too strong – *men of weakness and humility*.
- One thing all disciples had in common was their willingness to follow anywhere at any cost.
- Jesus chose the weak but demanded strong commitment in order to transform earthly zeroes to spiritual heroes BUT only if they left everything to follow Him.

Jesus wants you to follow Him;-

→ Not just pray a pray or say you are a Christian but turn your back on the old life and pay the price to go wherever He leads.

Jesus calls you to spend time with Him → take time to pray, worship and read the Word.

Disciple = pupil; and pupils spend time with their teacher and listen to what they say.

How then can you follow Him and spend time with Him;-

1. Something has to leave your life so that time with Jesus can enter it.
2. Seek first His kingdom.
3. Live a new life by the values of his kingdom.
4. Dying is only the precursor to living/rising to a new life in Christ.

Following Jesus is a call to walk with a different set of values AND to let His Kingdom revolution begin in us.