



The Gospel of Mark – Above Temptation Pastor Dave Patterson 04.14.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Mark 1:9-13]

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

[Matthew 3:15]

But Jesus said, "**It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.**" So John agreed to baptize him.

[1 Peter 2:21]

For as a believer, you have been called for this purpose, since Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you may follow in His footsteps.

Temptation:

A temptation is a test, it's an invitation to take an offramp from God's best. Temptation is a lure, an enticement that appeals to our fallen/ human nature in order to derail us from God's purpose for our lives.

[James 1:14-15]

Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

[Hebrews 4:14-16]

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

[1 John 2:16, AMP]

For all that is in the world—the lust and sensual craving of the flesh and the lust and longing of the eyes and the boastful pride of life [pretentious confidence in one's resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father, but are from the world.

kosmos = fallen creation, the values and behavior of Godless culture

[1 Corinthians 10:13]

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience, and God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

How to live above temptation:

1. Break the legal hold of sin through water baptism.

[Romans 6:3-7]

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin.

How to live above temptation:

2. Use the "sword of the Spirit" when you are in the middle of the fight.

3. Practice the pattern of Jesus' success.

[Mark 1:35]

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

[Hosea 2:15]

" .. and I will make the Valley of Achor (*trouble and pain*) a door of hope.

Key Points:

1. Break the legal hold of sin through water baptism.
2. Use the "sword of the Spirit" when you are in the middle of the fight.
3. Practice the pattern of Jesus' success.

Applications for the Week:

Pastor Dave said we can "break the legal hold of sin through water baptism. If you have given your heart to Jesus but haven't been water-baptized, take your next step by going public with your faith today. Click [I HAVE DECIDED](#) to take your next steps to be water baptized.

Discussion Questions

1. Where can people encounter temptation in their daily lives? What lures are used to draw us away from God's best?
2. Why do you think the miracles of Jesus are preceded by a wilderness season? What example does He set for us today? [See Hebrews 4:14-16]
3. We all can relate to temptation, but it's different for each of us. How can temptation lure us away from God's best?
4. Thinking of the three major categories of temptations, why do you think they are so appealing to today's culture? [See 1 John 2:16]
5. How does water baptism help us break the legal hold of sin? How is it a launching point in your life to live in authority over what has a hold of you?
6. What practices will help you sharply wield the "sword of the Spirit," the Bible?
7. What does it mean to practice the pattern of Jesus' success? What are some of those patterns?
8. When has following the pattern of Jesus brought you, or someone close to you, victory over temptation?