

Sermon Reflections

Solving the Sin Problem (Matthew 3:13 – 4:11)

Summary: The solution to our sin problem rests with God's Son. Follow His strategy to oppose sin, and depend on His righteousness to answer it.

The Son Solves the Sin Problem:

1. The Son Stands with Sinners, for Sinners (vv. 13-17)

- What is the reason why John the Baptist initially did not want to baptize Jesus? What was the answer that Jesus gave John as to why He should be baptized?
- What did Jesus mean by His answer? How does the prophecy in Isaiah 53:11-12 explain the answer that Jesus gave?
- When Jesus was baptized, all the members of the Holy Trinity were simultaneously involved. Why is this significant? See Isaiah 42:1-4.
- How does Jesus identify with sinful people? Why is this important? How would you explain the Biblical teaching of the "Great Exchange"? See 2 Corinthians 5:21.

2. The Son Stands against Sin, for Sinners (vv. 1-11)

- Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil three times. The first temptation was one of **pleasure**. Jesus was very hungry and the thought of having some bread to eat would have been very tempting. Why would it have been sinful for Jesus to make the bread that His body desired?
- The second temptation was one of **presumption**. In this temptation, the devil actually used Scripture in the temptation. Compare verse 6 in Matthew 4 with Psalm 91:11-12. Did the devil quote the Psalm "word perfect"? How did the devil twist the text in Psalm 91 to his advantage to try to get Jesus to be disobedient to His Father? What can we learn from this? How can we guard against false teachers in our day who attempt to misuse Scripture in order to deceive us? Who has God placed in your life that could help you in your attempt to handle the Word of God accurately?
- The third temptation was one of **power**. Why would Jesus be tempted by the devil's offer? What can we learn from James 4:6-7 that would help us when we are tempted in this manner?
- For all three temptations, Jesus used the Word of God to defeat the devil. Have you memorized some Scriptures in the past that have been helpful to you when you are tempted?
- To which of the three temptations (pleasure, presumption, power) are you most vulnerable to succumb? What can you learn from how Jesus responded to these temptations that would help in your fight against sinning?