

Jesus is Perfect - Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Peter 1:22-25
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Nobody's perfect. To err is human. Everybody makes mistakes. C'mon, we have all said these phrases from time to time, usually after we committed a big one. Of course sin and failure is the universal human experience, right? The truth is that Adam and Eve were created perfect, without sin. Yet, even though they were in a beautiful garden with all their needs met, temptation came and they quickly succumbed, handing their righteousness over to Satan. But this was not the way it was supposed to be, this was not how humanity was created. Since then temptation has sucked all of us in, we have all sinned, and therefore we are all guilty before God.

Then Jesus arrives, the promised Messiah, God who took on humanity. He too was tempted, but unlike Adam and Eve who were tempted in a garden, Jesus was tempted in a lonely wasteland after fasting for 40 days. Yet, rather than giving in to His own desires Jesus stood against temptation, quoting from Deuteronomy three times as He took the onslaught from the Tempter. Believe me, Satan never came at anyone like he came at Jesus, but Jesus continually obeyed the will of His Father, kept the Law of God, and submitted Himself to the plan of God. So, the truth is that there is One who is perfect, who never erred, and who never made a mistake. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was sinless, absolutely righteous, pure, holy, perfect. He lived on earth for 33 years, growing up as a normal Galilean Jew in the home of a carpenter and learning the trade. He had parents whom He obeyed and siblings. He developed friendships and other relationships, and had close friends betray and abandon Him in the worst way. Jesus lived a normal human life, yet, at every point his actions, words, thoughts, and character fulfilled the Law of God.

Think about this. The Old Testament Law had 613 Commandments the Hebrews were supposed to keep and fulfill. But from the moment the first 10 were given the people were already breaking them. Temptation came and quicker than light the people gave in to their own desires and longings rather than trusting and obeying God. These Laws are a kind of resume describing the righteous person who is worthy before God. The problem we find is that nobody fits the resume. Every person in the Bible (yes, with One exception) is deeply flawed, guilty before God, and in need of a Savior. Then Jesus comes along and actively fulfills 613 out of 613, never sinning, never failing, completely worthy. He doesn't do this by cowering in a corner avoiding any issue that might cause Him to fail. Rather, in Jesus' life He is confronted with every possible temptation and in ways none of us can imagine. On our behalf, Jesus stood strong. He is the One described in the resume of the Law. He is the Righteous One.

A recent study showed that only 44% of those who claim faith in Jesus actually believe that Jesus was sinless. Less than half. And my guess is that more of us are not sure why that matters. Is it just another example of some religious guy who is able to say, "I am better than you!"? Absolutely not. The doctrine of the sinless life of Jesus is central to the story of redemption. God's righteousness requires perfection, yet we are not. His justice requires penalty, which each of us deserve. And because we each deserve this there is no way one person can sacrifice himself or herself for another. So why doesn't God grade on the curve? Because there is no way to maintain His perfect righteous character and forgive any sinner. Without a perfect sinless human the Law is ultimately meaningless and we are lost in our sin. Jesus' perfect life is so much more than an example of someone living the way God wanted. His sinless life is the perfect picture of God's ultimate design for humanity, but his life is also representative. In fact, theologians call the sinless life of Jesus our representative obedience. Not only did Jesus die in our place, He lived in our place, lived the life I should have lived, but His life is what is received by God for me. Again, theologians speak of this representative obedience of Jesus in two ways.

- His active obedience - He lived the perfect life, completely fulfilling the Law - all 613

commandments.

- His passive obedience - Perfectly submitting Himself to the Will of God and the work of bearing our sin through His sinless life and sacrificial death. In other words, the Law required the penalty for our sin to be covered, and Jesus righteously took on our guilt and debt.

So here is why Jesus' righteousness and sinless matter. Luther called it the great exchange. For the one who believes in Jesus, In the eternal court of God's justice, God has exchanged the life and sinlessness of Jesus for your broken, sinful, temptation giving in, messed up life. God put your mess and guilt on Jesus who died stood condemned in your place, although He was perfect. And God has imputed the sinless righteousness of Jesus to your account, even though you are guilty. This is grace, and none of could have happened if Jesus made bread from rocks, jumped from the temple, or bowed to the Devil to satisfy His own desires and wants.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Weds | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Numbers 27 | Numbers 28 | Numbers 29 | Numbers 30 | Numbers 31 | Numbers 32 | Numbers 33 |

Reading from this past week: Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Peter 1:22-25

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-23, Luke 24:36-49.

Family Worship

Song - *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

<https://youtu.be/h-xQDm-KZw8>

Gospel Project

Unit: Early Responses to Jesus

Story: People Were Amazed by Jesus

Big Picture Question: How can we be saved?

Answer: We are only saved through faith in Jesus?

Scripture: Luke 4

New City Catechism

Question #20: Who is the redeemer?

Answer: The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Peter 1:22-25

- Be honest, what are your greatest areas of temptation? Why do we fail so often and what does this show we need?
- Why did Jesus need to be perfect and sinless in order to be our Savior? What happens to the Gospel if we lose this belief?
- Why do we need the sinless Jesus to be our Savior before He can become our example?

Prayer

*Pray that we would behold the glory of Jesus' righteous perfection and that His glory would transform us.

*Spend time praying the Lord's Prayer with your family from Matthew 6:9-13, focusing in on the second two lines.