



# EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: Introduced!

Sermon Title: "Jesus Confronts Satan" (Mark 1:12-15)

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## Connection to Session 1

As Mark introduces Jesus to his readers, there is an abrupt confrontation with evil. Immediately after His baptism Jesus faced temptation by Satan in the harsh Judean wilderness. The temptation and Jesus's victory over Satan were a meaningful part of His preparation for ministry.

## Introduction/Opening

The appearance of trials and evil in our lives are unwelcome intrusions into what we might expect to be a tranquil life of walking with our Heavenly Father. When we exercise faith and rely upon the Holy Spirit during our unexpected trials, we emerge victorious.

## Outline

### 1. The Spirit Compelled Jesus into the Wilderness

- a. The Spirit "drove" Jesus into the desert. This is the Greek term *ekballo*, "to cast out," or "send away."
  - i. Jesus did not choose this time of temptation; the Spirit lead Him into the wilderness.
  - ii. There is divine purpose in this episode. Satan is involved, but the Heavenly Father is in control as He is with our times of testing.
- b. Times of testing allow us to grow in spiritual maturity. Believers will have times of testing of various kinds (1 Pet. 1:6).
- c. Jesus emerged victorious after resisting temptation.

### 2. Satan Confronted Jesus

- a. This episode was a personal confrontation with evil. Satan, the father of lies, is clearly identified as the culprit behind the testings.

- b. Satan uses unimaginable tactics to break down his targets. The only remedy is in trusting the power of Jesus.
- c. According to the accounts in Matthew and Luke, Jesus had been in the wilderness for 40 days without food. Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread.

### **3. Jesus Received Comfort**

- a. In the harsh reality of the wilderness, wild animals were visible and frightening (v. 13). God and his angels were with Jesus and served Him.
- b. Our physical reality may be frightening but we are never alone. God is with us.
- c. Temptations and testings are unexpected intrusions in our lives, but through them we learn the power of God and participate in His victories.

### **Conclusion**

We are unrealistic if we expect life to be empty of trials. Evil intrusions will come as Satan seeks to destroy our testimonies and joy. However, as we face trials, we learn the power of God and experience victory in Him.

*Ken and Welda Cox live in New Boston, Texas. In 2012 Ken retired from First Baptist Church after 20 years of service. Ken has been active in prison ministry since 1995 and presently serves as interim pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Omaha, Texas. Ken and Welda have six children and nine grandchildren.*

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