



**FIGHT
THE
GOOD
FIGHT**

Message #5
Jesus in Action

Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

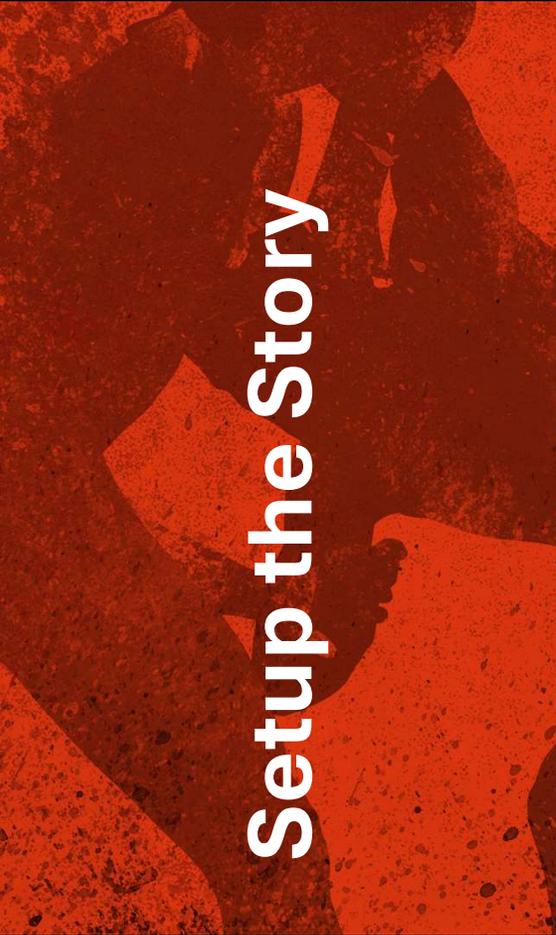




Be strong

.... in the LORD

.... in the power of His might



Setup the Story

- Jesus has just been baptized by John.

Matthew 3:16

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

- “This is My beloved Son in whom I’m well pleased!”

Matthew 4:1-2

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

“led up by the Spirit...to be tempted by the devil”

**Why would the Spirit of God
lead Jesus to this fight?**

Jesus was tempted so that every creature in heaven, on earth, or under the earth might know that Jesus Christ is the Conqueror.

(Warren Wiersbe)

The Gospel

=

a proclamation of Good News

- Something in history happened for your benefit and you need to know about it.

Genesis 3:15*

Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

The long-awaited Snake Crusher has now stepped onto the scene.

Jesus is...

Fighting for Israel

- **The Exodus Story**
 - “into the wilderness”
 - 40 days & 40 nights

Fighting for Humanity

- **Genesis 3**
 - Garden of Eden – Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil – moments.

Jesus is fighting the enemy for Israel and for all of humanity in this story!

1) 3 Names

2) 3 Temptations

3) Jesus Our Champion

4) Help for Us

3 Names of Our Enemy in Matthew 4

a) Tempter

b) Devil

c) Satan

- We've heard the voice from Heaven at Jesus' baptism, now we are about to hear the voice from Hell in this Temptation.

1st Temptation (vs 3a)

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "**If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread."

Notice, he attacks & scoffs at Jesus' identity.

1st Temptation (vs 3b)

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, **command that these stones become bread.**"

**Use Power to gratify Himself –
Be Impulsive vs. Act Responsibly
(magnifies the feeling & hides the consequences)**

Temptation: Lust of the Flesh

1st Temptation (vs 4)

4 But He answered and said, "**It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'**"

**Jesus' Response – Deuteronomy 8:3 –
The Ultimate Lesson**

Jesus highlights the secret on how to live
the Abundant Life!

2nd Temptation (vs 5-6)

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, **"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"**

To Test or Tempt God, **Exalt Yourself**
to make God your servant instead of you serving God

Temptation: Pride of Life

2nd Temptation (vs 7)

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again,
'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

Jesus' Response – Deuteronomy 6:16

You don't command God!

You Ask God!

You trust God!

3rd Temptation (vs 8-9)

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Golden Calf Temptation / Idolatry Temptation

Worship other gods for selfish gain

Temptation: Lust of the Eyes

3rd Temptation (vs 10)

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Jesus' Response – Deuteronomy 6:13

Serve God only!

No other gods before me!

Jesus, Our Champion

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

**Did you notice how Jesus
fought against the enemy?
What was the weapon He used?**

Help in our Temptations

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot **sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore **come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may **obtain mercy and find grace** to help in time of need.

Go to Jesus and ask: **LORD, how would you handle this situation? What should I do?**