

REWIND: ALL-ACCESS

Luke 4

- Earlier in the year, we did a series entitled ALL-ACCESS, based around Paul's teaching in the book of Ephesians ***“For through [Jesus] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”- Ephesians 2:18 (ESV)***
- So because of what Jesus has done through His life, death and resurrection, we now have Full Access to God.
 - It's the beautiful truth of the Gospel that no matter where we have come from, what we have done, or how far off we had gotten, we can be brought near to God by the blood of Jesus
 - You get to talk to God, walk with God, be with God on a personal one on one level
 - However, how many things do we have access to that we don't use?

- That is why we are intentional with our Selah moments in our services, because we want to make sure that all of us are given an opportunity to use our Access to God on an individual level.
- However, here is what I want to talk about today. The further you come along in your spiritual journey, the more spiritual attack you will experience.
 - It's just a fact of our faith. The more you come to understand your spiritual blessings, the more you will be involved in the spiritual battles.
 - So today, I want us to be able to recognize the Spiritual battle that we are in, understand our enemy a little bit better, so that we can learn how to use our Access to God to combat the lies of the enemy.
- So we are going to piggy back off of our message from last week:
- In Luke chapter 3 we met John the Baptist who had this incredible ministry, and some scholars

believe he was baptizing people by the thousands in the Jordan River.

- And last week we talked about those that were asking him, what they should do next?
 - He tells them to take this repentance and this baptism and allow it to transform the way you live right where you are.
- We see in verses 10-14 of chapter 3, John gives these new repentant believers 3 principles to practice in their new walk with God:
- **1. BE GENEROUS**
 - **2. BE HONEST**
 - **3. BE CONTENT**
- We're not going to break it down now, because we did that last week which you can go back and listen to on our Hope HKY podcast platforms if you so desire...
- But these three are practical life lessons are important because...

- *A genuine relationship with God brings you to the point where you realize that He is everything that you need.*
- But the enemy will tell you, as we'll see here in a minute, that you need to look out for yourself first...and you need more
 - You need more physically, you need more monetarily, you need more reputationally
 - The enemy wants you to have a constant thirst for things that will never satisfy
 - And Jesus shows us in chapter 4 how we can combat these lies.
- So John was baptizing multitudes of people, we see towards the end of the chapter that one day Jesus Himself comes to be baptized, and He sets an example for us that even HE would follow through in obedience to believers baptism
- And it's this beautiful moment where the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends on Him like a dove and the Father speaks from

heaven saying, “This is my Son with whom I Am well pleased.”

- Then we see the genealogy of Jesus leading all the way back to Adam, which is significant because when we pick up in chapter 4, we see that Jesus is going to pick up where Adam left off. Jesus is the true and better Adam, because where Adam failed, Jesus is going to succeed in order to begin His journey for our redemption.
- ***“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days.” -Luke 4:1-2 (ESV)***
- It’s very interesting that the attack that Jesus is going to endure, is coming directly after the most spiritual moment of His life up to this point.
- Right after He was baptized and has this incredible experience, immediately the enemy attacks

- Maybe you’ve experienced the same. Maybe you have been recently experiencing some sort of spiritual breakthrough and you feel like your progressing more in your faith...but at the same time things seem to be getting harder and temptation seems to be stronger.
- And you start to wonder if this Jesus thing is even really worth it because life is seemingly getting even more difficult! Which is the whole point of the attack...to get you thinking that way...
- Don’t be surprised when the enemy comes quickly to try and knock you off course whenever you start to grow in your faith.
- Sometimes Obedience to God will be followed by Oppression from the enemy...but when you experience attacks like that you can be encouraged that you’re on the right track and you got them worried
- *And you can take heart because GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD! AMEN??*

Sunday, November 19, 2023

- Now before we go any further, let me clarify a couple of things... In Matthew's account he intentionally states that Jesus was led by the Spirit TO BE tempted.
 - So it seems that Jesus was intentionally putting Himself in a situation to experience temptation, why? For us!
- Hebrews 4:5 says, ***"For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."***- ***Hebrews 4:5 (ESV)***
 - Yes, Jesus wants to give us an example of how we can combat the direct attacks of the enemy, but even more so He wants to let us know that He's been there.
 - There is no struggle or temptation that you have dealt with or experienced that He does not understand. That's what makes such a Good God, and as Isaiah calls Him, a "Wonderful Counselor."
- *He can be there for you now, because He has been there before!*
- Now, the main thing that I want to clarify, is that Jesus intentionally put Himself in a situation to be tempted....we should not!
 - Why? Because we are not Jesus...we are not God in Flesh!
- *We do not intentionally Fight Temptation, we intentionally Flee Temptation*
 - That should be our first default response, to get as far away as quickly as possible
 - We need to be like Joseph with Potiphar's wife, just leave the coat and HIGH-Tail it outa there!
- Now, we will not be able to avoid temptation completely in our lives, we will face temptation every day, but as Paul tells us, we do not fight it, we flee from it.
 - He says in 2 Timothy 2:22 "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness."

- ***“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” -1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)***
- Now this is encouraging, because Paul lets you know that you’re not alone. The enemy wants you to think that you are the only one dealing with the struggles and temptations that you are struggling with, but NO temptation has overtaken you that is not common to mankind. YOU’RE NOT ALONE.
 - And How do you endure that temptation? By escaping it...not fighting it.
 - Now this is the verse that most people use for the famous saying, “God will never give you more than you can handle.”
 - Which is complete and utter Non-Sense
- If God never gave us more than we can handle, why would we need Him?
 - He gave you life, that’s more than you can handle!
 - Temptation is more than you can handle, that’s why He provides a way of escape...so instead of fighting it, you can run to His Loving and Protecting Arms.
 - How do we know that He can protect us? Because we see here in this passage that He can handle everything that we can’t.
- Now the last thing I want to clarify before we get into this passage is that I am going to identify 3 different tactics of the enemy. And I am going to refer to the Enemy and not specifically Satan. Why? Because I don’t want to give Satan more credit than he deserves.
- He is not omnipresent like our God is, he cannot be in more than one place at one time. I do not think that I have personally been tempted or attacked by satan himself because

I think he has much bigger fish to fry than Kenny Hall.

- However there are demonic forces and influence that operate under his command (we get a bit of insight into their operation in Daniel chapter 10 if you want to study that on your own time)
- And if you do not believe me, that satan, hell, demonic forces exists...well, you're wrong, you're calling Jesus a liar, and they have you right where they want you.
- The number one tactic of the enemy is to operate in secret and make you think that they are either non-existent or at least not involved in your life.
- Now, I am not one to over-spiritualize and blame every little thing that goes wrong as an attack from the enemy
- Sometimes life just happens and I don't think that me spilling coffee on myself in the car on the way to church is the devil trying to throw me off my game and get inside my head...

sometimes I just do stupid things! ...
sometimes I just get sick

- However, I believe that Jesus identifies 3 different tactics of the enemy that we need to be prepared for and on guard for whenever they come.
- So Jesus is in the wilderness and has been fasting for 40 days... ***“And when they were ended, He was hungry. The devil said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” Luke 4:3-4 (ESV)***
- Here we see: **THE ENEMY ATTACKS IDENTITY**
- He says, “if you really are the Son of God” ...we see that he does this in the first and last temptations. As if Jesus needed to question who He really was, where He really came from, and as if He needed to prove it.

- The enemy would love to get us question not only our identity, but even more so they want us to question the identity of God himself.
- We see that in the very first temptation when he went to Eve in the garden and said, “*Did God really say....you shouldn’t eat of the fruit*”
 - You see if the enemy can get us to question God’s word, they can get us to question His Character, and His heart toward us.
- “No no no, you won’t really die...you’ll just know good and evil like He does!”
 - *Now was that a lie?? No, that was a manipulated truth*
- He took something that God was protecting them from, and made it seem appealing and it lead to their downfall.
 - What the enemy wants to do is subtly turn our attention toward what we think we want rather than keeping it on the One who knows best.
 - And we see that in our culture today, do we not??
- *How many times do we hear... “Did God really say??”*
 - *Did God really say, that you shouldn’t have sex before marriage...*
 - (1 Cor. 7:1-2, 8-9, 36; 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thess. 4:3-6; Prov. 7:21-23)
 - *Did God really say, that marriage is only to be between a man and a woman...*
 - (Gen 1:27, 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:2; 1 Cor. 11:11-12 Eph. 5:22-33; Mark 10:6-9)
 - *Did God really say, that you were fearfully and wonderfully made...*
 - (Gen 1:27; Psalm 139:13-14; Psalm 119:73; Psalm 100:3; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Isaiah 44:24 Luke 12:6-7)
 - *Did God really say, that church is actually necessary...*
 - (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 For. 14:26)
 - *Did God really say, that YOU are a New Creation, that YOU (after all that You’ve done,) could be forgiven...*
 - (2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 8:1. 1 John 1:9)
 - *Did God really say, that He wants a relationship with YOU??*
 - (John 1:10-13; John 14:23; Rev. 3:20; 1 Peter 5:6-7; James 4:8; 1 John 3:1)
- If you have been wrestling with any of those questions, if you go on our website, you can find the written notes to this message, and I

put those questions along with scripture references on page 8 of the notes that you can look more into to find out what God really says about those things...

- But the enemy loves to get us asking those things, and questioning God's word...
- And then the enemy will start operating in those manipulated truths:
 - *"Can you really have a relationship with a God you can't see? Or touch? Or feel? Isaiah said, "His ways are higher than your ways, and His thoughts were higher than your thoughts" can you really have a relationship with someone like that?? Will He ever understand you??"*
- Oh the enemy will quote scripture too...and they love to twist the scripture just enough to get you to form your own opinion on it...
 - The enemy loves to hear us say, *"Well this verse says that, but I think it actually means this..."*

- And so the enemy gets us questioning God's word, just enough, so that we'll slowly begin to question Him entirely, and get us to compromise more and more...
- And that is precisely the reason why the majority of people on this planet are living in a complete Identity Crisis...because we will never know who we really are if we don't know who our Creator really is.
- And that's exactly why Jesus quotes the scripture that He does...
- His response to the temptation is from Deuteronomy 8:3 which says, *"...man does not live by bread alone, but but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."*
 - Jesus is telling us that what is going to sustain us and strengthen us more than anything is God's Word, God's Promises, what HE says...not what I think or what I feel.
- I cannot stress this enough! My opinions and my worldview means absolutely nothing! I

Sunday, November 19, 2023

don't want to base my way of life on my opinions and how I feel things should be...I want to base it solely on His word!

- I want to stop saying, "Well, I think..." and start saying, "Well, He says..."

- And this is so hard for so many Christians because if we're honest, we don't really know His Word that well
- You can hear a sermon every single week for the rest of your life but if that is the extent of your intake of His word, you will be so unprepared and the enemy will eat you alive.
- That's why Peter says, our adversary the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour...and those he devours are the ones that do not know God's word and therefore do not know who they are...

- If you are a believer in this room, struggling with your identity please read Romans 8 every day for at least a week! Because Romans 8 tells you exactly who you are:

- *When the enemy tries to beat you over the head with past mistakes or current struggles you can remind yourself and the enemy that **There is no condemnation for you in Christ Jesus (V.1)**,*
- *When the enemy tries to make you question if you can even live for God, you proclaim that **the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of you (V.11)**,*
- *When the enemy tries to manipulate truth and get you to start thinking that you can't have a relationship with God you can confidently say that, **you have been adopted as a child of God (V.14-17)**.*
- *When the enemy tries to get you to believe that God is absent, and if He was good, he wouldn't let bad things happen; you can stand in the truth that **God works ALL things out for your good and His Glory(V.28)**,*
- *When the enemy keeps attacking, trying to weaken your faith, you can let them know that **you are more than conquerors through Him who loves you (V.37)** and their attacks will only make you stronger in your faith*
- *And when the enemy gets you to question His love for you can preach that **no angel or demon, or absolutely anything in, or out, of this world that can separate you from the Love of God (V.38-39)***

- KNOW IT, REPEAT IT, BELIEVE IT..that's who you are, and there's nothing the enemy can do about it, except get you to question it.
- You see, even satan himself has no actual power or authority over you...in John 8:44, Jesus refers to the devil as the father of lies... and the only power a liar has is getting someone to believe a lie...**THAT'S WHY THE TRUTH SET'S YOU FREE**
 - And that's why you need more of His Word and His Truth, and less of people's opinions...
 - And even when we are prepared with the Truth, the enemy will still come back. You see the scripture isn't some sort of devil repellent,
 - But the proper use of scripture will counter the evil influence when the enemy comes spewing more lies....
- ***And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment***

of time, and said to Him, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it will all be Yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." -Luke 4:5-7 (ESV)

- This time...**THE ENEMY APPEALS TO PROSPERITY**

- It is actually a lie from hell that says if you come to God and have enough faith, God will make you rich and successful.
- How do I know that? Because first off, it's completely unscriptural, it's manipulated truth... but also because it taints our worship.
- If we come into a relationship with God expecting all of these things we are not actually worshiping Him, we are worshipping the stuff that we think He is going to give us.

Sunday, November 19, 2023

- Our worship is supposed to bring us to a deeper understanding of who He is, how great He is, and how everything we desire and look for in this life is actually found in Him
 - So what the enemy wants to do is make us think that what we desire and are looking for is actually: *more money, a better job, nicer car, power, prominence, success...*
- But what we are really looking for is: *purpose, belonging, meaning, significance, direction...* and all of that is found in our identity in Christ, that's why we worship Him alone, get to know His Word and True Promises
- But if the enemy can make us think that those things we are looking for are found in temporary stuff, then they can leave us in a constant state of want, rather than allowing us to find contentment.
 - There's a reason John told those he baptized in chapter 3 to be content in what they had.
- Now, money, success, position, good reputation, relationships, even cars and boats and houses...are not bad things! They are good things, they are blessings from God! He is pleased when we enjoy such things!
- But what the enemy wants to do, is take something that's good, and inflame our imagination in such a way that we will love them so much that we'll do anything we can to get them with or without God
- *The enemy loves to take a good thing, and make it an ultimate thing.*
- *All in order to misdirect our worship*
- It's interesting that when satan shows Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world, in all of their splendor and glory, and says all of this is mine...Jesus doesn't argue with him
 - Because it actually was. Ever since the fall, satan had taken dominion over the earth, he was referred to as the prince and the power of the air, the ruler of this present world
 - But satan knew why Jesus was there...Jesus was there to take it back

- So what satan was wanting to do was manipulate the process
- He doesn't lead with, "just worship me"...he first shows Jesus all of the splendor and glory, he shows Him the people that He came for because the Father loved them so much...
- And satan says *"Hey, if you just worship me..."* Could be translated, *"If you just kiss the ring," "Pay homage to me, give me some credit...I'll just give it all to you right now. And I'll just fade away, and you'll never hear from me again..."*
- What is satan trying to do? He's trying to manipulate the process by trying to get Jesus to bypass the cross... and we see that further...
- ***And he took Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command His angels concerning You, to guard You," and "On their hands***

they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone." ***And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'*** -***Luke 4:8-12 (ESV)***

- Many of the pharisaical scholars were convinced that when the Messiah would come, He would appear on the roof of the temple. It came from a misinterpreted prophecy in Malachi.
- So satan proposes they make a show of it! *"Give the people what they want Jesus!"*
- *"You can show up on the roof of the temple... you'll have everyone's attention, and then you can just coolly and calmly walk out to the edge...everyone's gonna wonder WHAT the heck is goin on!"*
- *"And then you can slowly just step off, everyone will GASP, and you'll be falling full speed to the ground, but then, Because the Father loves you so much...He's not gonna let you get hurt...no no, He'll send His angles to catch you just like it says in Psalm 91...and*

then You'll just float slowly to the ground and the crowds will go nuts! They're gonna LOVE Ya Jesus....they'll instantly accept you as their messiah"

- And this is the final tactic that we see...

- THE ENEMY "OFFERS" THE EASY WAY OUT

- The enemy is all about instant gratification. Again, they'll take a good thing, and manipulate the plan and the process for it so that it will become a destructive thing.

- Is that not what they have done with sex? They took a beautiful thing, manipulated the plan and process for it, took it outside of it's God-ordained context, and made it all about instant gratification.

- And therefore, made the focus of it become solely selfish, and as a result we have more abortions, broken homes, single mothers, and fatherless children.

- All because the enemy made "waiting" a 4 letter word.

- The enemy preaches the gospel of self

● Why should YOU wait??

● Why should you deny how YOU feel?

● You deserve to have what YOU want, when YOU want it, in the most comfortable way for YOU...and don't let anyone get in your way

- But Jesus teaches a different perspective:

● He says, the greatest person is the one who serves others best

● He says to count other's more significant than yourself

● He says, take up your cross daily

- You see Jesus never said to Find Yourself...Die To Yourself

- He never said Follow Your Heart...Follow Him

- He never said You Just Do You...Love One Another, Just As He Has Loved You

Sunday, November 19, 2023

- And in this passage we see the complete contrast of the two warring principles of the spiritual realm
 - Satan keeps trying to get Jesus to use His power and position as the Son of God to benefit Himself
 - But Jesus never once in His life and ministry used His divinity for His own benefit...it was always for the benefit of others.
- **Satan's Way** is based on the principle, *your life poured out for me*...**Jesus' Way** is based on this principle, *My life poured out for you*.
- You see Jesus did not come merely as our example...
 - If Jesus is just our example...that's so discouraging
 - WWJD?? I can't do what Jesus would do! I'm not God in Flesh!
 - Looking satan and temptation right in the face...being tempted in every way and still be without sin! I can't do that...I've already failed at that so many times!
- But Jesus isn't just an example...He came to pass the test that I couldn't pass. He came to live the life that I couldn't live. He died the death that I was supposed to die
- Because He's not just my example...He's more importantly and Primarily my Savior.
- Satan came to Jesus proposing that He use His divinity to ease the path for Himself. Just live a good and comfortable life...you can still be the Messiah and show them how to be good people
- Because satan knew that if that was the extent of it...we would remain hopeless.
 - He HAD TO go to the cross, to pay the price for our sins, to bridge the gap between us and God that sin had created. He couldn't take the easy way out....even tho everything within Him wanted to, when He was sweating drops of blood in the garden before His arrest.

Sunday, November 19, 2023

- *Pastor Tim Keller breaks it down this way.*
- ***Jesus came primarily to die, not primarily to live. If Jesus came primarily to live, He would merely be an example. Therefore we would find our way to God by trying to live like Jesus. But if Jesus came primarily to die, He doesn't come as an example, He comes primarily as a Savior. If He came merely as an example He would be like any other founder of any other religion teaching, "This is the way to God," But Jesus says, "I'm God, come to find you." - Dr. Tim Keller***
- That's precisely what the enemy will try and get you to question for the rest of your life...
- They'll try to make you believe that you need to work hard for His approval, that you need to be good enough for Him, and you're not doing enough! You need to do more!
- But that's a lie...
- He Loves You, He Came for You, He already accomplished everything that was required for His acceptance...and there's nothing you could do ever do to earn it or lose it.
- And things will get difficult, things will get messy...temptation is just around the corner... If Jesus had to take on the Cross, before He took up His throne, we shouldn't expect things to be easy for us...
- ***Because Jesus Promised... "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -John 16:33 (NIV).***
- A Movement of God Never happens without a fight
- So as you grow in your faith, you will experience spiritual attacks
- ***In verse 13 we see "And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time." -Luke 4:13 (ESV)***

Sunday, November 19, 2023

- *He wasn't done, he was going to come back*
- And the enemy will be looking for that opportune time in your life as well
- This isn't a sermon that should scare you in any way...Don't be afraid of any evil power...
- Jesus doesn't get all flustered at the attacks of satan. His demeanor seems to be so calm. Even when He's casting out demons, he doesn't have this long drawn out battle or make a big spectacle of it, He just simply says, "Get out. Be gone. Shew."
- Because He is the Highest Power that there is and if we are rollin with Him, we have nothing to fear, because our lives are FILLED with the Highest Power that there is.
 - *Make sure you know Your Savior*
 - *So make sure you know His Word and your Identity in Him*
 - *Make sure your Worship is directed toward Him and nothing else*

- *Make sure you take advantage of the Access to God the Father that you have been given.*