

The Author and Finisher Part Two

Last week we talked about Jesus The Author... (Slide)

- Jesus was there in the beginning
- Everything was created through Him
- In the beginning, He was thinking about you and me
- Gave us the best (He made cows taste good!!)

I think most of you know what happened from there: (SLIDE)

- Man sinned, separated him from fellowship with God
- Had to leave the garden (paradise on earth) and work for a living
- Religion took the place of a relationship with God...
- No man was able to satisfy the demands of law
- There was a need for a Savior
- Jesus came to earth, took a natural body, born of a virgin...
- Lived the next 30 years in the life of an average Joe
- Experiencing the things of life that we all experience

But then something happened..

Jesus is The Author and Finisher:

- Today we're talking about a point in between...

Matthew 3:11

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*”

Matthew 3:13-15

13 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” 15 But Jesus answered and said to him,

**“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
Then he allowed Him.”**

Matthew 3:16-17

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. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.””

This is Jesus entry into His Earthly ministry: (SLIDE)

- The beginning of an era of grace
- Teaching us the way to everlasting life

I want you to pay close attention to what happened next:

Matthew 4:1

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

(SLIDE)

Jesus first official ministry assignment was to face the devil’s temptation!

- And He did this for you and me
- Jesus needed to set a precedent for us to follow because each of us will face temptation

Matthew 4:2-4

2 “And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

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.’ ””

- The devil tempted Jesus in an area of weakness (food after fasting)
- Expect to be tempted in your weakest areas (SLIDE)
- Jesus taught us the power of living out the Scriptures in our life

Matthew 4:5-7

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.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ””

I believe this was Jesus showing us how to avoid

- “Performance based religion” (SLIDE)
- Just as later, religious people always wanted to see a sign from Jesus... wanted Him to perform... put on a show...
- Standing strong in your faith means you don’t have to perform for people I for one believe that there is way too much performance in the church... and that is a trick of the devil...

Matthew 4:8-11

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

- Here he tempted Jesus with pride (Pride of Life) (SLIDE)
- That personal ambition that will do anything to get ahead or have more Jesus taught us a very important lesson here:
- Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7)

It’s very important to learn from Jesus in His actions against the devil...

- He did this for us, to empower us
- So that we can stand strong in our hour of temptation

I Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but

with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

- Jesus made the way out for us
- He faced and beat this temptation so we don't fall prey to the devil

Hebrews 2:18

“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

Hebrews 4:15

“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.”

Jesus, the author and the finisher... (SLIDE)

- In the beginning
- In the middle
- In the end

He's always been there for us...