



Sermon Notes

Term – Autumn Term

Series – Luke’s Gospel

Gathering & Date – 10 Gathering 10th October 2019

Title – If we don’t get it, we can’t do it!

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading – Luke 4:1-15

Main message of this talk in one sentence: If Jesus is our model for what it means to live for God then what are the tests that Jesus faced in the wilderness and how do they apply to our lives?

Main points –

Recap of the why we are looking at Luke’s Gospel:

In Christmas, we remember that Jesus came to be ‘Emmanuel- God with us’ and, in Easter, we remember that Jesus became a sacrifice for us once and for all. In receiving these truths Jesus invites us to follow him, to learn for him, and gives us an example of what it means to live for God. As we journey through Luke’s Gospel, we will be looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus as we see what he did and how he did it.

This journey starts, after Jesus’ baptism, with time in the wilderness where He is tested

What are these tests/temptations and how do they apply to us today?

1. Luke 4:3-4

Power – Dunamis[greek] means power, ability, miracle, a manifestation of power

The first test is about Jesus’ power. If you have this power then use it for your provision – use it for your own needs.

2. Luke 4:5-8

Authority – Exousia – authority, the right to govern or rule, a sphere of jurisdiction

The second test is about Jesus’ authority. The devil asks Jesus to submit to him and then he will give him all authority. Jesus declines with scripture knowing that the devil has no authority to give to him.

3. Luke 4:9-12

Identity

The final test goes to the heart of who Jesus is – if you are the Son of God then... The devil has tried to take Jesus’ power, his authority and now he is trying to question his identity. If the devil can undermine Jesus identity he will have no power or authority as these things flow out of our identity from God.

Two aspects of identity from God

Father – God is a good Father and delights over us as his children. We are reminded that in the baptism of Jesus, the father speaks to Jesus to favour words ‘You are my son(child), whom I love, with you I am well pleased’ God the Father speaks these words over me and you in the same way because of all that Jesus has done for us.

Hey

King – not only is God a good father but he is also the King. This means that He has authority and power which he delegates to his children (that is us!) Although using this authority and power requires character and skill, we have been given this authority to be God’s representative (ambassadors) in the places He has put us.

The title of the talk was ‘If we don’t get it, we can’t do it!’BUT if we do then.....everything changes!!

For further thought and prayer –

1. What have been the significant topics that have been raised in the journey through Luke's Gospel so far?
2. What do you think it would look like to be God's representatives with His power and authority?
3. How could His a)power or b)authority be warped by our misunderstanding of the gift given to us?
4. How does the identity of God's children shape our thinking? Where is the challenge in our own personal lives to this truth?
5. How does life change if we step out in faith understanding that we have authority and power as the children of the King?
6. Pray for those places (neighbourhoods, workplaces, families and friends) that God has put you, asking God to show you what it would look like to be His person with authority and power in those places.