

Rest of the Righteous

Week 3 - We Rest in Worshiping God Alone – We Rest in Jesus' Righteousness

Hebrews 4 (Reminder) and Matthew 4:8-11

Christians will find rest in worshiping God alone. They will rest in Jesus Christ!

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

A young boy found himself in trouble. He was caught doing things that his father told him not to do. He found himself living in a house that was in chaos. He felt like he was always in trouble and that his dad hated him. It was hard to sleep and rest in his house. The problem is that he had a friend whose dad told him it was ok to do the things that got him into trouble. The young boy was not doing what his dad had said and was living as if his friend's dad was his dad. The young boy's dad sat him down and reminded him that the young boy had one dad. The young boy's dad loved him more than anyone else's dad would or could love him. He reminded him of the things they shared, the things his father had done, and how they would be father and son for the rest of their lives. The young boy was in trouble for trying to be the son of another dad. He realized that he had only one dad and that his dad loved him deeply. He was sorry for doing the things his dad had taught him were wrong. The young boy's life was less troublesome, and he remembered that his home was a place of peace and love.

We find that when we worship and obey something or someone other than God, our Father, we are fatigued and live in unrest. God corrects His children, so they remember who their true Father is and find peace in worshiping Him alone. We also realize that due to sin, we will struggle to abide in the rest of God. Praise God, our rest isn't found in our actions alone, but in Jesus Christ. He obeyed perfectly and makes a way to find rest in Him.

Let's look at the third temptation of Jesus and see how He modeled worshiping God alone!

Read

Reminder

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV (SLIDE 2)

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 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. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 3)

Matthew 4:8-11 ESV (SLIDE 4)

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)

Notes on Matthew 4:8-11

A Third Temptation (v. 8)

Jesus has rejected Satan’s temptations to satisfy Jesus’ hunger in a way that would leave Him hungry spiritually and to test God in a way that would have harmed Him significantly. Now Satan leads Jesus away from the Holy City and the temple and to “a very high mountain”.

A Deceiving View (v. 8)

Satan, again, takes Jesus to a place to tempt Him. Each temptation ascends in geographical location. This third temptation is upon a “very high mountain”. Here, Satan shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Satan presents the kingdoms and their splendor. Satan shows Jesus the best view. He doesn’t show Jesus the squaller, despair, destruction, manipulation, and coercion that comes from Satan’s rule. The view is a manipulated one. The reality is that Satan is the influencer of destruction, chaos, and conflict. His view doesn’t show this reality but tries to present an opportunity that is wonderful and beautiful. These kingdoms are glorious under Satan’s rule and influence. The location suggests that Satan has final authority over the kingdoms of the world, and He can grant control and authority to whomever he wishes. Satan is saying, “I am the highest authority in the world!” It is a lie! Ultimately, this perceived elevated view is a deceptive view to captivate and ensnare.

A Deceptive Promise (v. 9)

Satan, bringing Jesus to the mountain summit, is an attempt to sway Him to fail. Looking at the kingdoms in their glory is a view of authority. Then, Satan offers Jesus these glorious kingdoms as a gift. The offer comes from a position of authority. How much authority does Satan have? Can Satan give rule over all kingdoms to whomever he wants? Does the word “all” really mean all? The view was of all the kingdoms of the world. The word for world is translated from the Greek word Kosmos. The definition of this word is “an ordered structure, all the surface of the earth, where humankind dwells, world systems, godless world systems, and those estranged from God. Kosmos’ use here is in line with world and order. There is some clarifying aspect

to the meaning of Kosmos. It is not likely that Satan would have authority over the holy city were the temple was located. He also wouldn't have the freedom to rule over every kingdom. It is more likely to see Satan's rule being over the kingdoms that God had given to him. Satan isn't giving away what belongs to God, but he is giving away what belongs to him. The word "world" isn't truly all kingdoms, but all the kingdoms Satan has authority over. Satan is offering Jesus to gain sovereignty over what Jesus controls and more. This is an offer to have all (in totality) kingdoms under Jesus' authority. These kingdoms under Satan's rule can be a gift, but Satan's rule is by the authority of someone greater than he. God's people see that since Jesus has conquered sin and death and is glorified by the Father, Jesus has authority over Satan, therefore Jesus also has authority over every and kingdom. Satan isn't the ultimate ruler; he is only a steward! There is a requirement. Satan demands that Jesus must worship him in order to receive these kingdoms. The temptation of power and control would quickly fade as Satan would still control the kingdoms, since he was being worshiped. That is the trick.

The overwhelming desire for power would cause the person with the desire to willingly worship another, and then all true power is lost in subordination to a higher authority.

Only One Worthy of Worship (v. 10)

Jesus rejects this temptation. Jesus declares that there is only one person to worship. Jesus is faithful to obey God's word and only worship God. In this third and final rejection of Satan's temptations, Jesus commands Satan to go away. The rejection of Satan, the command for Satan to leave, and the obedience to not worship Satan is understood as Jesus again quotes Deuteronomy 6:13. The passage shows that the righteous are to worship God alone and only serve Him. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is God, the Lord is one. You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Genuine Care and Rest (v. 11)

Jesus has perfectly and totally withstood Satan's temptation to show believers, for all time, that He is God's Son sent to redeem God's people and truly worthy to complete God's plan to relieve God's people from the curse of sin and shame. Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. He is the one who was prophesied about in Genesis 3 and He, in God's perfect timing, will crush Satan's head. Jesus commands Satan to leave and Satan responds to Jesus' command and leaves. Satan has no other choice but to obey. He does not have a will that overrides Jesus' authority, and he leaves. Then, we read that Jesus was being ministered to by angels. We see that in contrast to the false help Satan offered; angels give true help. We see in this moment that withstanding temptation is fatiguing, and God helps those who are righteous and obedient. Jesus is the only one who has ever fully resisted Satan's temptation. Jesus is the only truly righteous One. Therefore, it is only in Jesus that a person can find rest.

The Righteous Find Rest in Worshiping God Alone (SLIDE 6)

There is only One God (SLIDE 7)

God who created everything

God who is sovereign over all things

God who exists in three persons

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

The One God is Worthy of Worship (SLIDE 8)

He is God

He is Perfect

Power, Presence, Knowledge, Kindness

He is Great

To be Revered

To be Feared

He is Our Father

Created us

Chose us

Loves Us Deeply

We Will Rest Worshiping God Alone (SLIDE 9)

Reject Worshiping Anything/Anyone Else

Grow in Worshiping God alone!

We Will Rest in Jesus Christ – The Only Righteous One! (SLIDE 10)

Read

Hebrews 4:9-11 ESV (SLIDE 11)

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, **10** for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)

Daily Readings

Week 3 – Rest in Worshiping God Alone

Day 1

Hebrews 4:9-11 ESV

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, **10** for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

You are called to rest. Finding that rest comes from obedience. God worked 6 days in creating the universe and then He rested. We are to do the same. Obeying His command to rest is an act of worship and will provide true rest. Strive to find the rest that empowers worship and protects you from the fatigue that comes from disobedience. Find true and deep rest in Jesus Christ!

Day 2

Matthew 11:27-30 ESV

27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. **28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Jesus calls you to come to Him and find rest. He has done all the work needed for you to abide with God, be justified with God, and give you rest. Receive His invitation with gratitude and enter into the rest Jesus provides eagerly. It is dynamic in that some moments you rest from doing work and striving. Yet, in other moments you rest striving and working diligently. The key is being in Christ and worshiping God, trusting God, and living by God's provisions.

Day 3

1 Peter 2:21 ESV

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

We are called to do good and endure suffering. This is shaping us into Christlikeness, glorifying God, and refining us. He suffered and left us an example of how to endure suffering in a glorious way. We pray to prepare. We pray and worship as we persevere. We give thanks and praise God as we are kept and experience rest. Pray that you would be kept to follow Jesus' example. Live in the rest that comes through Jesus Christ as you worship God alone!

Day 4

Hebrews 7:26 ESV

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

You don't need a weak advocate and intermediary that makes you look ok, in comparison. You need a perfect high priest who is innocent, unstained, unlike you, and exalted to take the middle ground between you and God and advocate for you. Praise God for Jesus Christ who is perfect and does advocate for you. Find rest in Jesus Christ!

Day 5

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

God requires righteousness. You are unable to always be righteous, due to sin. So, God made the only righteous and perfect man who never sinned to be sin so that you might become the righteousness of God. You needed Jesus to be made right, and God accomplished that work in Jesus Christ for you. Worship God alone and find your rest in Jesus Christ. He is the only righteous one and you are in Him!