

The Temptation of Jesus

Mark 1:9-13



At Once

- “*At once*,” or in some translations, “*Immediately*” are Mark’s favorite words.
- “*At once*” helps us see the immediacy for Jesus to accomplish the task given to Him by God the Father.
- “At Once,” Jesus is whisked away by the Spirit to face the power of Satan over a 40-day period.
- Jesus doesn’t get to bask in the joy of approval and anointing of His baptism experience.

Sent

- Mark 1:12: “*At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness.*”
- Mark uses a Greek word which literally means “to expel, to drive, to cast or send out.”
- The first thing the Spirit of God does, after Jesus’ baptism and anointing, is thrust Him into battle with the Devil.
- This clash with Satan in the wilderness lays the groundwork for Jesus’ future ministry and work on Calvary.

The Wilderness

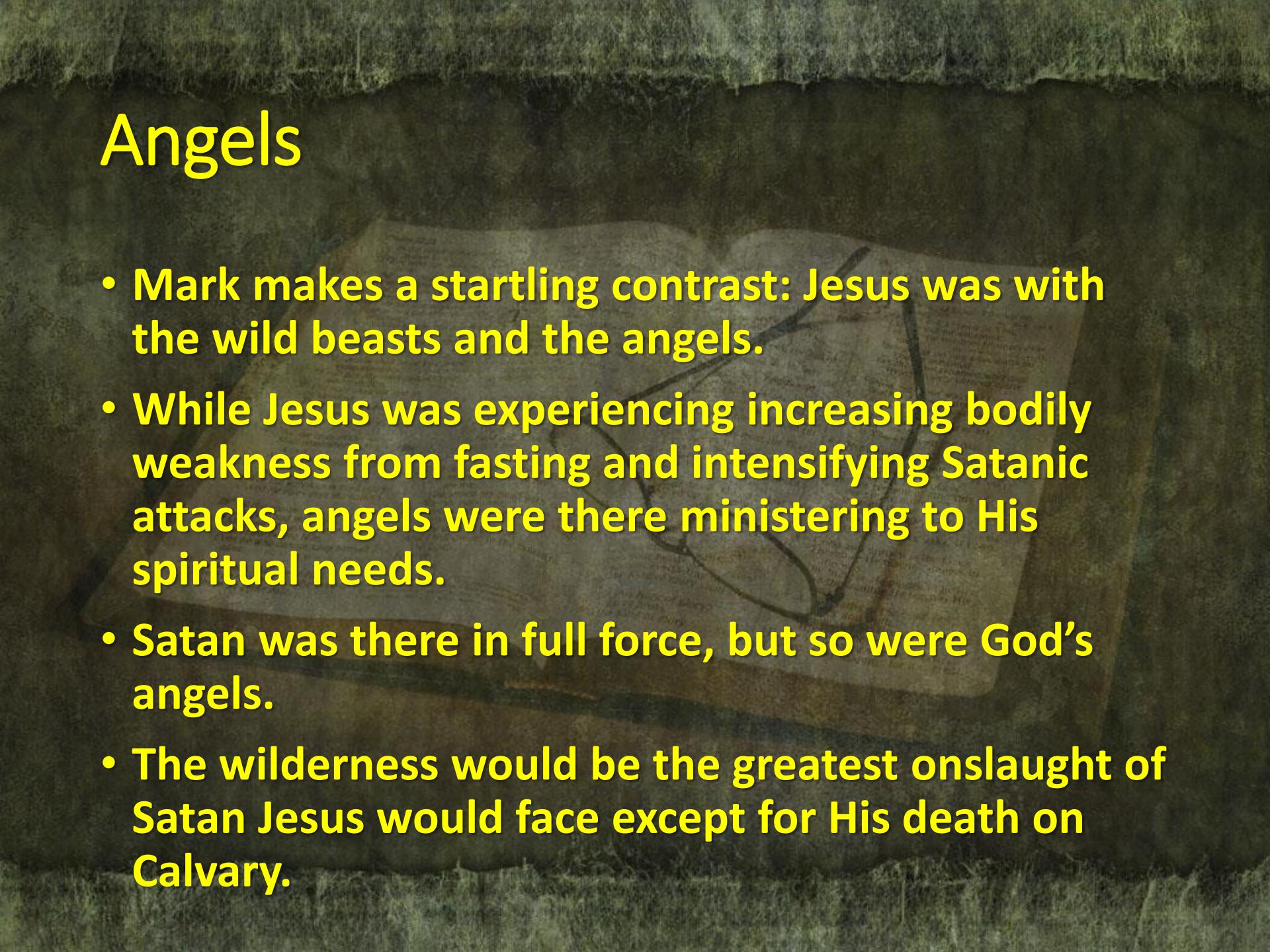
- In the Old Testament, the wilderness was a place of testing for 40 years for the Jews.
- The wilderness was also a place where Israel experienced intimate fellowship with God.
- The wilderness was a place of spiritual preparation and training for service.
- The wilderness was a place for testing, intimate fellowship, training and preparation for active ministry.
- Jesus exposed Himself to the extremes of human temptation to accomplish a cataclysmic victory over Satan and His forces.

Tempted

- The Greek word “tempted” means “put to the test, make trial of in order to discover the kind of person someone is.”
- God put Jesus to the test to show He was qualified for His messianic mission.
- Mark uses a Greek form of the verb “being” that implies the temptation was continuous, a daily battle.
- This was spiritual warfare at its highest as Jesus was actually tempted, bearing witness to His true humanity.
- Satan Himself was the tempter of the Son of God.
- Because Jesus was tempted in every way we are tempted, He knows what we go through and is sympathetic with our struggle.

Wild Animals

- The wilderness was the place of the leopard, the lion, the bear, the wild boar, the jackal, serpents and scorpions.
- Mark uses this phrase “*with the wild animals*” as a vivid detail to add to the grim terror of the scene.
- Adam lived in an ideal environment, but Jesus, the second Adam, went out into a dangerous environment.
- Jesus’ victory over the curse of sin speaks of the restoration of the original plan of God for creation.

A dark, moody painting of Jesus in the wilderness, possibly by Rembrandt. It depicts Jesus sitting alone on a rocky ledge, looking upwards with a contemplative expression. A large wooden cross leans against a rock behind him. The background is filled with dark, turbulent clouds and a hilly landscape, creating a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

Angels

- Mark makes a startling contrast: Jesus was with the wild beasts and the angels.
- While Jesus was experiencing increasing bodily weakness from fasting and intensifying Satanic attacks, angels were there ministering to His spiritual needs.
- Satan was there in full force, but so were God's angels.
- The wilderness would be the greatest onslaught of Satan Jesus would face except for His death on Calvary.

Conclusion

- Great victories in our lives are precursors to great times of testing.
- The two most awesome experiences for Jesus came just before His two most trying trials.
- God uses testings to make us stronger.
- With every victory over temptation, we are a little bit stronger than before to handle temptation the next time.
- When you face temptation, you have great resources to call upon to be victorious.
- Because of Jesus' resisting temptation, it means that Jesus was a suitable sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins.
- If you place your faith in Jesus as your Savior, the guilt of your sin can be transferred to Jesus, and you can receive the full forgiveness of all sin.