

Day Forty-One

by David Wilkerson

Jesus' victory over temptation is a reminder that we can rely on his righteousness and holiness, and that God loves us in our testing times.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1

Topics: "Dependence On God", "Overcoming Trials"

Description

David Wilkerson emphasizes the significance of Jesus' victory over temptation on day forty-one, showcasing His confidence and readiness to confront darkness. He contrasts this with our own struggles, reminding us that even the strongest believers have faced their own wilderness experiences. Wilkerson encourages us not to compare our trials with others, as we cannot see their struggles or the depths of their faith. Instead, we should focus on Jesus, who understands our challenges and offers us His righteousness. Ultimately, our trials are opportunities for growth, leading us to greater dependence on God and the ability to support others.

Transcript

Suppose you came upon Jesus on day forty-one--the day immediately following his temptation in the wilderness. His face is shining. He's rejoicing, praising the Father, because he's won a great victory.

You see Jesus exuding life and confidence. Now he's ready to face the powers of hell. So he sets off boldly for the great cities that lie in darkness. He preaches the gospel, sure of God's Word. And he heals the sick, knowing his Father is with him.

Now, as you examine your own life, you see just the opposite. You're still facing your own dry wilderness experience. You've endured fiery attacks from Satan, and your soul is cast down. You can't help thinking, "Jesus never did go through trials like mine. He was above all this."

You may see a minister who appears strong in faith; he sounds so assured of God's presence that you think, "He's never had any problems like mine." If you only knew! You were not there when God called this man to preach and then led him into a wilderness to be tempted sorely. You weren't there when he was reduced to nothing, cast down in despair. And you don't know that often his best sermons have come out of the testings of his own life.

Paul warns us not to measure our righteousness against what we think is another's: "We dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12).

We can't read the hearts of others. Who would have known on day forty-one that Jesus had just emerged from a long, horrible temptation? Who'd have known that the glory they saw in him sprang from a struggle worse than any they would ever endure?

We are to look only to Jesus. And we're to rely only on his righteousness, his holiness. He has given us all equal access to it.

God loves you in your testing times. His own Spirit has led you into the wilderness. Yet his own Son has already been there--and he knows exactly what you're going through. Let him complete his work of building into you utter dependence and trust in him. You'll come out with confidence--and godly compassion and strength to help others.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/david-wilkerson/day-forty-one/>

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