
Sermon Title: Sonship of Christ Proven by His Victory over Temptation

Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Date: Feb. 15 09 6 p.m.

Hymns: Psalm 67 – 121 – 125 – 122

Almost 100 years ago in April 1912 The Titanic cruise ship set sail on its maiden voyage. It was the largest and most luxurious vessel of her day.

It was built by Harland and Wolfe, shipbuilders in Belfast, and set sail from Southampton destined for New York. The most expensive fare was \$4,350. = to \$80,000 in present day terms.

Financing for her building was by J.P. Morgan

Such was the fanfare about her design and opulence that she was hailed as the unsinkable.

I wonder how people felt when they walked the plank, at Southhampton, Cherbourg and Cork, in the South of Ireland – probably with such confidence they thought little of the possibility of the ship sinking.

However, there were a number of things against her, like her size, weight and speed..

Fog came down when the ship was on the high seas among floating icebergs.

Normal binoculars to scan for icebergs were lacking - they had not been brought on board.

The unthinkable happened - the unsinkable vessel – the pride of men’s architecture and seamanship sank in the icy waters with a loss of 1,517 passengers.

The Titanic reached 2/3 way to new York and hit Icebergs 400 miles south of Newfoundland. They trusted in a false hope. The ship proved to be sinkable and was short of lifeboats.

What had been hailed unsinkable torn open and five compartments were flooded – on the high seas and went down to her silent grave If only four compartments of the ship were flooded it would have limped on safely into the 20th Ave. harbour in New York.

What the Titanic was advertised to do was proven to be a lie. She was subject to the powers of the elements and she went down to a watery grave.

Almost half of all deaths were crew members.

Only one passenger from the Titanic is alive today. She was only an infant in arms at that time. She now lives in Southampton

I tell you all this because unlike the Titanic our Lord Jesus is a dependable Saviour. He lived up to His Title the Son of God.

At the Baptism of our Lord, The Father announced that the Lord Jesus was His beloved Son. Upon that announcement has been built the doctrine of Christ's eternal Sonship.

Now in this temptation in Matt. 4 we have the testing of that announcement. Our Lord being full of the Holy Ghost – the Holy Spirit came to abide upon Him anointing Him for His work. The same Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted.

He was to undergo a gruelling 40 days fast and then be set upon by Satan – the enemy of God.

This was of God for the purpose of testing and confirming the reality of the Divine Sonship of the Lord.

All human goodness needs the strain of temptation to reveal its reality and depth. _BIL

We also know the end of this testing that our Lord was victorious. See v11

His Divine Sonship is proven by

CHRIST'S DIVINE SONSHIP IS CONFIRMED BY SATAN'S HATRED OF THE FATHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS SON

Just when the heaven opened to announce the Lord's Sonship, hell opened to denounce him.

Satan was certainly not asleep on this one. You will notice on two accounts that Satan attacked this divine title given to the Son. **"If thou be the Son of God."** V3, V6

Here is the wrath of the devil against the Saviour of the world.

Satan claimed to be the god of this world. He claimed to have a kingdom v8 He showed the Lord the kingdoms of the world and said, **"All these will I give thee."**

So we see the usurper at work.

Thus he was violently opposed to this title given to the Son of God.

Unto the Son had the Father given all power, authority and judgment, **But Satan was opposed to this title given to the Lord.**

He knew only too well who Jesus was. He was aware of the Father's announcement. All hell was moved in anger against God's Son when he was brought forth into the arena of temptation.

Like hounds behind a fence when the sheep walks along.

They cannot hide their bloodthirsty and spiteful nature.

We would be surprised if Satan was favourable to such an announcement. If Satan was comfortable with this title then we would say that it didn't mean very much. Rather we see that he was hostile to the title of God's Son and Satan will always fight against the name and works of the Lord Jesus.

But there was nothing that Satan could do about the power of the Son of God.

At the end he could only leave him for a season, while the angels came and ministered unto Him. **V 11.** Here then is proof of the Saviour's Divine Nature as the Son of God.

**CHRIST'S DIVINE SONSHIP IS CONFIRMED BY THE SON'S PERFECT SUBMISSION
TO HIS FATHER.**

Satan was doing his utmost in these attacks to drive a wedge between Father and Son. He was seeking to undo and unglue the loyalty of the Son to His Father.

In temptation #1 v2 he wanted the Son to act in self reliance against the leading of the Father.

In Temptation #2 v5 he wanted the Son to tempt or abuse God's protecting power. That is to make a show or a joke out of it. To act frivolously with an act of mere performance is to defy His Father's care and protection.

In temptation #3 v8 Satan wanted the Son to give His loyalty and worship to him. That was diabolical.

Against all of these attacks the Son showed his absolute fidelity to the Father.

He showed that he cared more for God's authority than for Satan's bait.

Each time the Lord showed His submission to the authority of Gods' word. Three times he quoted from Deuteronomy - **"It is written." X3**

He did not show off his own authority, or reasoning - He was in the world to obey the Father and do His will.

In the third response the Lord showed His defiance and authority over the kingdom of darkness in the words, "Get thee hence Satan." He commanded the devil to depart, and Satan fled.

Throughout His life our Lord demonstrated his Lordship over devils.

See **Matt. 8:16** - he cast them out with his word.

The Lord's first miracles in Capernaum were to cast out demons. **Mark 1:20 – 28.**

The people knew that the Lord was not just a teacher, a prophet, or a healer in their midst, this was one who had all authority.

Yet, our Lord used that authority to submit to the will of the Father against the powers of darkness.

Only a divine person could fulfil this commission and that in the midst of a howling wilderness, having fasted 40 days, and attacked by the god of this world – Satan himself.

CHRIST'S DIVINE SONSHIP IS CONFIRMED BY HIS TRIUMPHING SINLESSLY OVER EACH FORM OF TEMPTATION.

There is much of the cruelty of Satan in these three forms of temptation, but they only prove the powerlessness of Satan over the Son of God.

[1] The bread was to tempt with appetite, or - or the desire to enjoy.

After 40 days of fasting. When in body he was weak and lethargic. Then Satan wanted the Lord to turn a stone into a loaf of bread.

It was a temptation through the eyes of desire. The stone may well have appeared in the shape of a loaf of bread. To obey Satan would have been the instant relief that the Lord needed and craved in his human body.

See the cruelty of Satan here!!!

[2] The falling from the pinnacle was to tempt with ambition - or the desire to achieve.

This would appeal to human pride. It would be a demonstration of angels coming to His honour, but it was cruel for it was against the will of God.

It was also cruel in that Satan wanted to destroy the body of the Lord any way he could to divert Him from the cross.*****

If he were a mere man he would have fallen for this instead of the plan of the Father to go to Calvary and die as a substitute for sin.

Our Lord was loyal to the Father's will, not the will of Satan.

[3] He renounced the promise of the kingdoms of the world which was to tempt his avarice – the desire to obtain. v8.

So many men have fallen with the carrot of riches and power dangled before them. Here is the love of the world, presented and promised by the wicked one.

But he could not overcome the Saviour. He could not cause the Son of God to turn aside into the alleys of temptation in any of these cruel methods.

The lust of the eye, the pride of life or the love of the world was not in our Lord.

He proved to be more than mere man.

He could be tempted by these things but he could not be overcome by them. There was no lust in Him. There was nothing of this world in Him. There was no pride in Him.

This is the doctrine of the impeccability of Christ.

He was not only able not to sin,

He was not able to sin.

He was fully temptable, as he was perfectly human and stood in the place of His people in the flesh, yet it was without sin.

See. [John 14:30](#) [2Co 5:21](#); [Heb 4:15](#), [Heb 7:26](#); [1Pe 1:19](#), [1Pe 2:22](#); [1Jo 3:5-8](#)

The Bible is very clear about the sinless nature of our Lord and it was due to this that he could withstand the temptations of Satan.***

It was impossible for Him to sin, because his human nature was always in union with the divine personality. There was no weakness in the soul or emotions of our Lord Jesus. There was no point in Him in which he was susceptible to the infections of this world. He always possessed a perfect holy hatred for sin.

Therefore, Satan lost the battle to tempt our Lord through His flesh. Satan was conquered instead. And Satan left the Lord announcing His own defeat.

This is another confirmation of our Lord's divine nature - He truly was the Son of God.

CHRIST'S DIVINE SONSHIP IS CONFIRMED BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWER TO SYMPATHIZE WITH EVERY ONE OF HIS TEMPTED PEOPLE

We know that our Lord did not come into this world to resist Satan and sin for Himself. Rather he came as the friend and Saviour of sinners, who are broken and subjugated by the awful hellish forces of Satan.

It is because of His temptation that he is able to sympathise with us.

This is the teaching of the N.T. about the Lord as our High Priest. It was through suffering temptation that he was equipped to succor us. [He. 2:17,18](#) [Hebrews 4:15](#)

Thus in [Hebrews 4:16](#) we may come boldly to the Lord at the throne of grace to find help.

Now this is a great proof of the deity, or God-hood, of our Lord.

A mere man can only be in one place at one time.

A prophet or priest on earth can only hear cries for help one person at a time.

But this High Priest is risen with God and is equipped to hear all His people all the time from every part of the globe.

Thus we see that our Lord possesses omnipresence and omniscience. He sees us and knows our needs as He searches our hearts.

And because he knows the foul, fiendish nature of temptation that is thrust upon men in our weak human nature He sympathizes with us. He understands.

But more than this HE runs to our aid.

In the Lord's prayer our Lord taught us to pray: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." That was not a prayer for Himself. The Lord Jesus never needed to confess sin, but he hears the cry of His people to be delivered from temptation. Only a divine person can deliver us from temptation.

This is the grace of our Lord Jesus. He came into the world as the Saviour of His people. He was divinely equipped through the power of the Holy Spirit that rested upon Him while on earth and through His own divine nature to save His people and lift us up to glory.

Our thoughts of our Lord Jesus and too human. We can truly say of Him that He is the unsinkable. He has been proven and tested to be the Son of god with power.

He prays for us to be delivered. He prays that we will be restored from sin and temptation. This is because He is the Son of God and God the Son in great power and glory.