**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 4:1-11

**Singing:** 9 – 141:1-2 – 400:1-3, 6-7 – 103 – 355

Intro: A deathbed testimony and confession: *I* *am resting on the active*

*obedience of Jesus Christ.*

A. Matthew 3:12 describes Jesus’ entry into His *formal* ministry

1. The baptism events are connected to His *priestly ministry*

2. The temptation event is connected to His *kingly ministry*

B. Why are the three temptations recorded?

1. Are they given to teach us about *temptations* and how *to fight them?*

2. Are they shared with us to deepen glory of the ‘glad tidings?’

a. defines the *main purpose* of Jesus’ ministry:1 John 3:8; Gen. 3:15

b. the emphasis in Gospels is on the *conflict – battle to save*

3. Are they to comfort that *temptations* are neither strange nor sin?

**Jesus Meets the Enemy (1)**

I. Why this enemy? II. What was the enemy? III How fight the enemy?

I. Why is Jesus meeting this enemy?

A. He met him in the *wilderness*

1. Jesus is alone

2. Jesus is truly tempted

3. Jesus’ battle is comforting

a. There One able to save us: *God laid help upon mighty Jesus!*

b. There One Who won the battle: *It is finished!*

c. There One Who knows our battle: *compassionate High Priest*

B. Why meet with this enemy?

1. The reason: *Spirit led (Mark: drove Him)* there to **test** Him!

a. no accidental events but purposeful providence

2. Jesus’ work is to be *the last Adam*: He is God’s **new man!**

a. God made a covenant with the first Adam*: Covenant of Works*

b. God had already a plan ready to undo sin: *Covenant of Grace*

c. God revealed something infinitely sweet & beautiful in His grace

C. Why meet the enemy in these circumstances?

Close: *The only way of salvation: The doing and dying of Lord Jesus!*

A. Don’t seek it outside of Him – don’t look/depend on yourself!

B. Don’t fear to *make use of Him: He came to save sinners! (Luke 4:18-19*

**Truths about Satan and Temptations**

The devil has not difficulty making sin look innocent.

The devil knows how to make himself good looking.

The devil sometimes borrows God’s bow to shoot his arrows from. (Gurnal)

The devil shapes himself to the fashions of men. (Jenkyn)

When Satan fell, he lost his innocence but not his intelligence. (Knight)

The devil is the most diligent of preachers. (Latimer)

The devil is a better theologian than any of us and is devil still. (Tozer)