

Overflow 2024 Pre-Event Message

Main Idea: The Enemy will try to sow doubt in our lives.

Scripture: Matt. 4:1-11, Matt 3:17,

- <<PAUSE>>
- *Masterpiece.*
- *Before the dawn of time, the earth was formless and void.*
- *Then God began to speak.*
- *Through the power of His voice things began to take shape with intention and purpose; launched into existence towards the completion of all things.*
- *Just as He has been working with creation, His fingerprints are all over us.*
- *We are crafted with purpose towards our ultimate redemption; fully understanding who He is and who we are as we realize our heavenly purposes.*
- ***“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned.” Eph 2:10***
- <<PAUSE>>
- I have to tell you that our team is SO EXCITED about Overflow 2024.
- It is our desire that this event would be used by God to impact this generation with the powerful message of Jesus.
- We hope you are even half as excited as we are for this upcoming weekend.

- Hi there!
- My name is Wayne and I serve as the Overflow Pastor.
- I have the wonderful privilege of sharing with you today as a lead up to this amazing event.
- A few facts about me:
 - I live in London, ON with my wife, daughter and our 3 cats.
 - Yes we have three cats and as much as I love cats, I'm the voice of reason as to why we don't have four.
 - I served as a youth pastor for over 12 years and have been the Overflow pastor now for 5 Overflows ... it would have been 6, but 2020.

- Now, let's play a little game.

- It isn't a complicated game and you have likely played it many times before.

- It is called 2 truths and a lie.

- Basically, the idea is that I tell you 3 things about me, 2 of them are true and 1 is not.

- Ok, here we go:

- When I was in middle school, I would get picked up by a school bus that took me to Sunday school and when I got on the bus, they would give me a cookie. But not only that... when the bus picked me up, the leader (named Ken) would toss a cookie to my dog. Because of this, my dog would always get excited anytime she saw a school bus.

- That dog's name was Shannah, and my older sister's name was Shannon. So mocking my sister was really easy, because I could just say the wrong name.
- I love hearing rubber chicken covers of songs... So basically there is an Instagram account that takes popular songs and re-records them using a rubber chicken as the vocals. It is amazing!
- Ok, think about it for a second, which one do you think is the lie?
 - Dog getting cookie, loving school buses
 - Mocking my sister by calling her the dog's name
 - Rubber chicken songs
- <<PAUSE>>
- The Answer.... Du-da-du-da!
- The lie is:
 - The second one, about my dog and my sister.
 - Ok, not because I made up the names... those were right.
 - But because I did that once and paid the price from my sister, so I never did it again. 😊
- **Funny thing: as I was trying to come up with those lies, it was really important to me that I was careful in what I told you about myself.**
 - I didn't tell you that last weekend my wife bought me a chocolate bunny and I ate the whole thing... all of it.
 - Or that I got in an argument with my daughter because I was over tired and cranky.
 - Or that I recently got a traffic ticket for speeding.

- **I didn't use those stories because it matters to me what you think.**
- For so many of us, obviously myself included, we place a tremendously high value on **who we are and who we present ourselves to be.**
- Back in 2021, Kara Powell and Brad Griffin did some research on students.
- They published their findings in a book called: 3 Questions that Change Every Teenager.
- Basically, they interviewed thousands of teenagers from across all different backgrounds, race, religions, you name it.
- And they found that there were three questions or words that summarize what Teenagers are trying to figure out about themselves.
 - 1. Who Am I? – Identity**
 - 2. Where do I fit? – Belong**
 - 3. What difference can I make? – Purpose**
- I don't have time to go through all three of them, but I really want us to think about the first one.
- **Who Am I?**
- If there was ever a time when students have been asking this question, it is now!
- Through the research they found a few statements that can help us understand what students who were interviewed think.
- See if any of these statements are true of you:
 - **I am what others expect**

- As students a key factor in your identity is doing or not doing the things that are expected of you.
- For some of you, you are rule followers... it would drive you crazy to do something without the permission of other people.
- **I am not _____ enough (fill in the blank)**
 - This one can be a bit more negative, but our identity is shaped by our comparison to others, to who we think we should be, to the things we wish we were.
- **I am my image or my online persona**
 - We create an identity that we want the world to see us as.
 - When I was a Youth Pastor many of my students had multiple Instagram accounts.
 - There was the “public one” and the “spam account.”
 - Why, because they wanted to be able to post and share stuff that wasn’t acceptable for everyone ... especially perhaps their parents, or youth pastor. 😊
- **I am more than my label.**
 - Then of course deep down there is a desire to be more than just the person who fits in whatever box we get labelled in.
 - There is a desire to be significant, to be our own person
- Before we go any further, I would love for you to have a few minutes to chat about this.
- So in a second some questions and a timer are going to come up on the screen.

- Just take a moment with the people beside you, maybe make a group of 3-4 people and talk through these questions.
- Your questions are:
 - Have you ever been in a situation where you were tempted to make something up about yourself?
 - Why do you think we place a high value on what other people think of us?
 - If you have time, what is a silly, embarrassing thing that has happened to you, that you would not tell someone in a job interview?

- Welcome back!
- I trust your conversations were meaningful.
- If I was there with you, I would invite some of you to share what you were talking about.
- Obviously, I can't do that, but I encourage you to share with your leaders and youth pastors.
- Today, I want to look at a story from the life of Jesus.
- As you are likely aware, Jesus was a real person, who walked this earth.
- He had real interactions with people, he really taught people about God and really did perform miracles.
- The first 4 books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and they are eye-witness accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus.
- This story is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- We are going to look at Matthew's account in chapter 4.
- If you have your Bibles, you can open up to Matthew 4 now. If you don't have a Bible, don't worry it will be on the screen.
- Before we look at it, there are a couple of interesting things to know about Matthew.
- First off, he is a real person who was a disciple of Jesus.
- We find him in the Bible, known as Levi.
- Matthew was a tax-collector, which was a very controversial job.
- As a Jewish man, who worked for Herod (the government) he would have been considered a traitor and the worst type of person around.
- Equally evil as Murderers and prostitutes.

- His life was changed when we encountered Jesus, who invited him to become a disciple.
- The Book of Matthew was written from a Jewish perspective.
- His aim is to show the Jewish people that Jesus was the Messiah.
- That is why Matthew has more quotes from the Old Testament.
- His gospel is a lot more like a research paper, complete with references to famous texts.
- We are going to begin at Matthew 4, verse 1.
- You may be familiar with this story.
- Matthew 4:1-11 (NLT)

○ ¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

○ ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

○ ³ During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

○ ⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,

○ 'People do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' [B]"

○ ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,

○ ⁶ and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

○ 'He will order his angels to protect you.

And they will hold you up with their hands

so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

○ ⁷ Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

○ ⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

○ ⁹ "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

○ ¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

○ 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

○ ¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

- There is a lot going on in this story and so we will pretty much spend the rest of our time together looking at this.
- In the life of Jesus, it is important for us to know, this story takes place right after His Baptism and right before He really begins His ministry.
- By that I mean the travelling around teaching and performing miracles.
- Actually, I think it is important to read one more verse.
- As I mentioned, Jesus had just been baptized.
- So, lets flip back to the 2 verses just before our text.
- Matthew 3:16-17 ... literally the last verse before what we read.
 - ¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.

○ ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

- Umm... that's different!
- A voice from Heaven says, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."
- I have had the privilege of baptizing a lot of people and I have never heard a voice from Heaven!
- Obviously, Jesus is different, but how amazing and comforting would it be to hear a literal voice telling us that He loves us and we bring Him great Joy.
- While it is incredibly rare to hear an out-loud voice, we often do hear from God at moments like Overflow.
- There is something about coming away from our daily lives and listening for God.
- The testimonies or the stories of what God has done at Overflow are too numerous to count.
 - Stories of people being healed, being encouraged, called into their purpose and so much more have always been a significant part of Overflow.
- But if we go back to the story for a second, from this experience, Jesus presumably dries off and heads to the wilderness.
- Jesus has removed himself from the everyday life and has gone out into the wilderness to fast and pray.
- Basically, he wants to find a quiet place away from the crowds, distractions and focus His attention on God.

- After Jesus has been doing this for a while, He becomes hungry and tired. That is when the enemy comes to him.
- What does the enemy do?
- He calls into question or tries to get Jesus to doubt the very thing that GOD just said!!!
- The voice from Heaven says, you are my son... so the enemy comes at Jesus with ... "if you are the son."
- So often in our lives, when we have significant moments with God, that becomes the very thing that the enemy tries to use against us; to attack us with.
- I find it crazy that the enemy doesn't try to make Jesus doubt God.
- He does not challenge the things about God... He tries to challenge what He heard God say.
 - The enemy could have tried to tempt Jesus with anything,
 - If nothing is impossible with God, could he make a rock to big He couldn't lift it?
 - Or make him doubt the Bible; come on Jesus, how could one man build a boat that was big enough to house those animals?
 - NO, the enemy comes right after Jesus' identity in God.
- And I would venture he attacks us the same way.
- He comes to us and makes us question what God has said about us.
- *The enemy says:*
 - *You have done too many things wrong to be loved by God!*
 - **But GOD SAYS:**

- **You have been declared righteous because of Christ's sacrifice (Rom. 5:1)**
- *The Enemy says:*
 - *God could never love you!*
 - **But GOD SAYS:**
 - **You have been chosen by God and adopted as His child! (Eph. 1:3-8)**
- *The Enemy says:*
 - *You could never be a Christian, you are too weak and afraid.*
 - **But GOD SAYS:**
 - **You have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind! (2 Tim. 1:10)**
- We could keep going, but I couldn't possibly say all of the lies that the enemy sows into us, specifically around our identity.
- We have included a resource page, called "Who I Am in Christ" so you can ask your Youth Pastor or leader for a copy of that.
- But for now, let's take another couple of moments to talk with those around us.
- Again, aim for a group of 3-4 and discuss these questions:
 - What are some things that students your age doubt about God?
 - Have you ever seen a situation (yours or someone else's) where the person believed something from God at one time, but then stopped believing that thing?
 - Do you have a story about a time you heard from God? What did He say? (not necessarily out loud, but in your heart).

- Welcome back again.
- We will end this segment with some final questions for you to reflect on.
- As we look at the temptations offered to Jesus, we cannot help but see that Jesus responded every time with Scripture.
- He used the Word of God in the face of His temptations.
- The enemy began with, "If you are the Son of God..."

1. Turn these Stones to bread (v. 3) **SELF**

- "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." Verse 3
- This first temptation is all about the NOW or our Self – desires.
- How is Jesus feeling; hungry and tired... what helps when you feel hungry and tired... food!
- Personally, I'm more of a cheeseburger type of guy.
- **But the temptation is to let your current circumstances dictate what you do now.**
- He was tempting Jesus to bypass God's will and make food.
- Interestingly enough, later in the Gospels Jesus makes food.
- He multiplies the loaves and fish to feed people who were hungry.
- Jesus replies, "People do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- We put our faith in God and He supersedes the current situation we find ourselves in.
- We like Jesus, need to trust that God will bring us through.

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- Secondly, see the enemy challenge Jesus to...

2. Jump Off cuz God will protect you. (v. 6) **DESERVE**

- "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

- From there the enemy tries to get Jesus to throw himself off a high point.
- For me, I see this as **unmet expectations. Or feeling like we DESERVE something.**
- The enemy incorrectly uses a passage of scripture to create this way to see if Jesus really is God's son.
- In our lives this could look like:
 - Since you are a Christian, shouldn't your life be perfect.
 - You can't fail a math test, you are a Christian.
 - Oh, everything has to line up exactly as you want, #blessed.
- The enemy tries to make us think that our challenges or failings or frustrations are clear proof we are not following Jesus.
- What a joke.
- We cannot expect that our faith makes every moment of our lives perfect.
- Jesus' response is that we shouldn't test the Lord.

- The right response to challenges and frustrations is not to recklessly demand the miraculous, but rather to have trust and obedience.
- One of my favourite examples of this is found in Romans 8:28.
- The verse says:
 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose. (NIV)
- It doesn't say only good things will happen, it says that in all things God works for the good.
- That speaks of God's redemption.
- What I mean by that is whatever happens in our lives, God will bring you through it and will use it to refine us.
- Testimony after testimony have been told about how God used the challenging or difficult things in life to bring us to a place of closeness with Him.
- If you want more proof, just read the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. 😊
- Lastly, the enemy tries to offer everything to Jesus.

3. I will give it all to you (v. 9) **PRIDE**

- "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." Verse 9.
- This just feels like the enemy is throwing everything at Jesus.
- Here take it all, just worship me.
- It kind of reeks of desperation.

- Having said that, He does offer all the kingdoms of this world.
- Think of the power, prestige and awesomeness of having this.
- To me this temptation really comes down to **pride for ourselves**.
- To offer this temptation to us usually looks more like getting ahead.
- Short cutting the proper, God-honouring way to do something for a quick gain.
- We are so conditioned to want it all, that we are often open to the temptation of worshipping the wrong thing.
- Think of the things you dream of... like tickets to the Eras tour.
- Ok, silly example, but; I don't have tickets.
- To buy tickets on an after-market are crazy expensive.
- I could sell my car and maybe my house to afford to buy some tickets.
- Then I would reach that level of awesomeness where I have TICKETS!
- Obviously, I would probably never do that. 😊
- This would be similar to the temptation Jesus faced; sacrifice something for what you really want.
- I find it interesting that the enemy tries to tempt Jesus with ruling over everything.
- Because after Jesus' death and resurrection, he explains that all authority on Heaven and Earth is his.
- All the kingdoms of this world are under Jesus' authority.
- The difference was to short cut it; to bypass God's plan to get it.
- Jesus response reminds us that we are called to Worship God and not for personal gain.

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CLOSING:

- As you know our theme for Overflow this year is Masterpiece.
- We are going to spend a lot of time

Questions:

1. In what areas of your life is the enemy trying to get you to doubt God?
2. Jesus resisted the enemy with scripture; what are some verses you know that can encourage you or someone else when temptation comes?
3. Spend a few moments praying for each other.