

# The Crossroads of Life

## The fisherman

### Intro: The Road Less Traveled- (Robert Frost)

- A. A metaphor about crossroads
- B. Critical issues in life that necessitate life-changing decisions
  - 1. Some life-issues we prepare for -Marriage -Career -Move to a new home
  - 2. Others issues come up unexpectedly -Marital infidelity -Loss of job -Loss of child -Loss of health
  - 3. How do we endure?
  - 4. What do we do at the crossroads of life?

### I. Life's Inevitable Crossroads

- A. Like Frost, Paul came to a crossroad in life (Acts 9- persecute Christians or follow me)
  - 1. Paul's decision in **Phil 4:11-13** made all the difference in his life
  - 2. Whatever the crossroad, Christ was always there for Paul
- B. The same is true for us
  - 1. Let's discover Paul's words- "**I can do all things through Christ**"

### II. Jesus' Encounter With the Tempter

- A. The setting
  - 1. Prepares for ministry: The wonderful agonizing journey to the Cross
  - 2. Baptized by the prophet (John)
  - 3. Then comes Satan- (He new the enormity of the Messiah's journey) **Mt. 4:1-2**
  - 4. Peter describes Satan **1 Pet. 5:8**
    - a. So Satan waits for the Christ
    - b. But he's patient... and waits for the right time
- B. The Temptation
  - 1. Test 1: **Of a personal nature**
    - a. Satan dares Christ to prove what God said at His baptism (son) **Mt. 4:3**
    - b. His answer? **Mt. 4:4**
  - 2. Test 2: **Of a public nature**
    - a. Show off his identity- from the temple **Mt. 4:5-6**
    - b. How exciting to begin his ministry this way
      - What a crowd pleaser
      - Instead Christ responds in **Mt. 4:7**
    - c. Would He have survived the jump? Yes... but not His ministry
      - The leaping Messiah or the way of the Cross
  - 3. Test 3: **Of a power nature**
    - a. Get the world now rather than through:
      - Suffering
      - Struggle
      - Sacrifice
      - Only one compromise **Mt. 4:8,9**
    - b. God wants Christ to rule over the world, not through a crown of power but with a crown of thorns on a Cross
    - c. Christ's response **Mt. 4:10**
- C. The Outcome
  - 1. Satan departs frustrated **Mt. 4:11**
  - 2. Luke adds that he departed from Him until an opportune time **Lk. 4:13**

### III. When temptation crosses our path

- A. Don't be alarmed
  - 1. Expect it
  - 2. It happens to everyone
  - 3. We can prepare by having a watchful eye
  - 4. They are not as dangerous when we are not surprised

**B. Don't be blind**

1. Temptation has many methods

2. Stay alert

**3. The battle at Shiloh**

**C. Don't be clever**

1. There's a name for those who flirt w/ temptation-- VICTIM!

2. We deal w/ it as Christ did: W/ God's written word **Psa. 119:9-11**

**Conclusion- If you're at a crossroad of temptation-- and feel too weak-- Remember Christ!**

A. Christ survived and can strengthen you to do the same (**Heb. 4:14-16**)

**Two roads diverged in a wood, and I? I remembered I can do all things through Christ-- Christ at the crossroads. And that has made all the difference**

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