

**“CALL ON HIM”**

**Pastor Mike Corwin**

**TEXT:** LUKE 4:1-13

**GOD’S WORD:** ROMANS 10:8(b)-13

**I – WHO DO YOU CALL:**

I have discovered over the years that we all need something or someone to call on. As we go through life we come upon things we cannot handle on our own. There are

- problems we can’t solve,
- situations we can’t handle,
- questions we can’t answer.

When we’re children we rely on our parents to feed us, cloth us, give us the love we need. Then we learn to depend on teachers to give us the knowledge we need to answer questions, get a job, and take care of ourselves. As we get older we find that other things, like health issues, come up and we have to call on someone with the expertise to diagnose and fix us. In our later years we become feeble and have to call on home health people or hospice to help us through the last days of our earthly existence. And these are just a few of the things where we don’t have the experience or expertise to handle it ourselves and we have to depend on others.

Think of the lists you have of doctors, plumbers, electricians, mechanics, and others you count on to help you when you can’t help yourself.

**II – TEXT:**

There are other problems that have no earthly answer. There are matters of the heart and soul that need to have help...someone to call on to get us through and handle it for us. Who do you call on then in your time of need? Who do you put your trust and faith in to solve your problems or answer your questions? Who do you pray to? Jesus knew who to go to in his times of need. He knew who the ultimate problem solver was.

I see that lesson in this morning’s text. It is the passage which tells us of the temptation of Jesus...

**Luke 4:1-13 (CEB)**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. <sup>2</sup> There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “Since you are God’s Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread.*"

<sup>5</sup> Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world.

<sup>6</sup> The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*" <sup>9</sup> The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; <sup>10</sup> for it's written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you* <sup>11</sup> and *they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*"

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered, "It's been said, *Don't test the Lord your God.*" <sup>13</sup> After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.

We pick up the life of Jesus right after he is baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We are told that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and was led by that Spirit into the wilderness. There he spent 40 days where he ate nothing and was starving. Imagine how hungry you would be if you went 40 days without food. It's in this state of starvation the enemy...the devil attacks. He knows who Jesus is, he knows he is the Son of God, he knows he is a divine person, and all of that makes him a challenge, a target to be defeated.

He decides starvation would be a good place to attack first. He would use Jesus' hunger to tempt him. He says that since he is God's Son why should he go hungry. Why not just change a stone into a loaf of bread and eat to get rid of his hunger. The real temptation here isn't to just eat some bread. It's to act apart from his relationship with God and satisfy his own need. Gratify himself. Jesus may be hungry but he remembers who to call on when he needs help. He may be physically empty, but he's still spiritually filled and he quotes the scripture of Deuteronomy 8:2 to let the devil know he was not going to turn the rocks into a Wonder Bread factory. He would not act apart from his dependence on God.

So next the devil tempts him with fame and fortune. Takes him to a high place where he looks out at all the kingdoms of the world and says that they could all be his if he would fall down and worship the devil. It's not spelled out but the devil is challenging God's ownership of the world as well as trying to get Jesus to forsake the glory that will be his later. Do you realize that if Jesus would have said yes our Salvation would not have taken place? If Jesus would have agreed to the temptation before him he would no longer have been the perfect sacrifice for our sins because he would have been a sinner himself. If he would have agreed, he would have been avoiding the cross! But Jesus once again quotes from Deuteronomy 6:13 that we are all supposed to worship and serve only God.

Then he takes him to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and tells him to jump off as he misquotes Psalm 91:11-12, telling him God's angels would take care of him. But Jesus once again quotes from Deuteronomy 6:16 that we should not test God, only trust him.

When the devil couldn't defeat Jesus, couldn't get him to trust and put his faith in anyone or anything but God, it says that he departed until the next opportunity – the biggest of which was at the cross.

We see not only the story of faith and trust in this Scripture but we also see that supremacy of Jesus. Humans wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because they couldn't avoid temptation but Jesus went to the wilderness for 40 days and withstood the temptation. He did not build a golden calf or worship anything or anyone, except God. Israel failed God's test miserably, Jesus obeyed God fully. Jesus standing up to the devil in the wilderness establishes his credentials as the Son of God, as the Messiah, and gives credence to God's pronouncement at his temptation (3:22) "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

### **III – HOPLESSNESS:**

Have you ever experienced hopelessness? Have you ever faced something so intimidating that you knew there was absolutely no way you would ever succeed? My moment came in high school.

I was about 60 pounds heavier then. I was a good sized boy and was strong. This made for great ability playing football and wrestling. But...it didn't do anything for me on "THE ROPE." In the gym at my high school was a large rope that hung down from the ceiling. It was every boys challenge to climb that rope, hand over hand, until you reached the top and rang the bell. No matter how many times I tried over my high school career I never was able to climb the rope. It was hopeless and embarrassing.

The only other thing I have ever found in life that was this hopeless was life itself...specifically my eternal life. You see I...and you...are included in the group of people who wandered aimlessly for 40 years because of our sinfulness. None of us could even make it through 40 days like Jesus did. We are sinners! There is no argument about this. BUT THERE IS WORRY. Especially in light of passages such as Romans 6:23(a) that says: "For the wages of sin is death," or of Romans 3:23 "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

If the result of sin is death and we have all sinned, then we are hopeless aren't we. We'll spend all of eternity trying to climb a rope we can't possible climb!

### **IV – CALL ON HIM:**

We aren't without hope! We aren't doomed. We can find our way out of this – the biggest problem in life. We do it by calling on him.

The rest of Romans 6:23(b) says (for the wages of sin is death), “but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” And Romans 3:23 says that we are all sinners, that we have all disappointed God but the verse right before it, verse 22, says: “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”

There it is folks – our hope. Just as Jesus made it through his ordeal by fully trusting in God, so we make it through ours by fully trusting Jesus his Son, who leads us to God.

The passage that puts it all together for us, one of the sweetest promises in this whole book, is the one you heard read this morning:

<sup>8(b)</sup> *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach).

<sup>9</sup> ***Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*** <sup>10</sup>Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame.* <sup>12</sup>There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> ***All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.***

When it comes to the rope of life, the rope that we climb to make it to heaven, the climb is easy when we call on the name of Jesus!

## **V – WHO DO YOU CALL:**

So who is it you call on to get you through the problems, situations, and questions of life? Who do you put your trust and faith in?

There is only one to trust...only one to have faith in...only one who will not abandon you or let you down. We call him Jesus.

This Lenten season we will be repeating this message, that Jesus is the only one who can cover our sin and get us to heaven. You need to spend the next 6 weeks examining whether you call on his name and have faith in your heart that he is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior. And make sure nothing else stands between you and him.

Amen