

**8.2.2009 Pentecost 9 – St. Stephen Lutheran (West Bay) Mountain View, CA**

**Greeting:** The Grace of our Heavenly Father, Mercy of His Son Jesus Christ, and the Peace of the Holy Spirit be with you. The Word of God I would like to lay on your hearts for today and this week comes from:

**Matthew 3:13-4:11** Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**THEME: GOD'S WORD DEFINES YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE!**

1. Your PURPOSE is NOT to satisfy your own selfish desires...

2. Your PURPOSE is to learn about and serve the One true God!

**Introduction:** "How's *it* going?" What is my life's purpose? Self-centered society – 2 desires (greed/lust) – sin (miss mark)

Examples of mankind's purpose in life: "He who dies with the most toys... wins" (still dies)." (**Matt 6:24**)

**GOD'S WORD DEFINES YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE!** 1. Your PURPOSE is NOT to satisfy your own selfish desires...

Perfect example: Jesus Christ (**1 Jn 3:5**) "in Him there is no sin..."

v13-15 – John knew the truth about Jesus. (**Jn 3:30**) "increase, decrease" (**P's 51:5**) -OUR need for Baptism (Grace)

v16-17 –Triune God... had a message – this is God's promised salvation fulfilled in Jesus (**1 Jn 2:2**) "propitiation of sins"

-Jesus came NOT to satisfy His own selfish desires, but to selflessly satisfy the payment of our sins! (**Rom 5:8**)"love"

**GOD'S WORD DEFINES YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE!** 2. Your PURPOSE is to learn about and serve the One true God!

v1-2 Devil's craftiness, comes at weak times and strong times

v3-4 Devil tactic - appeals to physical desires / Jesus tactic – the Word (**Deut 8:3**)

v5-7 Devil tactic - take the easy way out! (misused the Word) / Jesus tactic – the Word (**Deut 6:16**) (every temptation a test)

v8-11 Devil tactic – promise what isn't his to give! Earthly king? "sell your soul for..." / Jesus tactic – the Word (**Deut 6:13**)

-Our purpose, learn from Jesus Christ – what's more important than taking care of the body? The Soul!

-Use the Armor of God! (**Eph 8:11,17**) –Learn it! Keep on learning it! In order to use it!

-Shows and helps us resist whatever the temptation (**1 Cor 10:13**) –serve Christ, not ourselves (**Phil 4:13**)

-Devil's a pit bull on a chain... why?

-Result of Jesus' purpose of rescue and deliverance from: sin, death, power of the devil

-gegraptai, gegraptoi, gegraptoi = theodidaktos (It is written... = God-taught)

**Conclusion:** What's your purpose? Simple. Fear God. Follow His commandments. YOUR PURPOSE... (PARTS)

-God's has a plan of salvation, and purpose for you. A plan of love! (THEME) (**Jn 3:14-18**)