

His Temptation

TEXT- Luke 4:1-13 *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days*

INTRO – Throughout biblical history, we see occasions where people are put to the test. We think of the patriarch Abraham being called by God to go to Mount Moriah and offer his only son, Isaac, whom he loved, as a sacrifice. That was a test of Abraham's faith, but he passed the test with flying colors.

The same Satan from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness came to God at the beginning of the book of Job and said: Job 1:9 . . . *doth Job fear God for nought?*

When Jesus disciples came to Him, they asked: "Lord, teach us how to pray." In response to that request, Jesus gave to them a model prayer.

Among those petitions is, Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

The second part of that petition is: "*deliver us from evil*"

At various times we see God putting people to the test.

There are two places in Scripture, however, that we see more significant tests than anywhere else.

The first is that which was given to our earthly parents, Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden.

The second is at the beginning of the ministry of our Lord Jesus when He was driven into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan.

The setting for the test of Adam and Eve was a garden paradise.

Of all the trees of the garden, they could eat freely. There were no briars, no thorns, no pain, and no death.

Jesus, on the other hand, was driven into the Judean wilderness. It is a place deserted by normal life. Jesus was sent there, not with a helpmate, not with a companion, but being solitary while He was exposed to Satan.

God never entices us to disobey Him. As James tells us, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God' James 1:13. Rather, our temptations arise from within. Those temptations may be excited and flamed by outward voices, but God Himself never inclines us to sin.

I. Temptations Are Inevitable

Because we live in a fallen world and have sinful natures, temptations are an unavoidable part of life. This problem began when Adam and Eve sinned and has continued throughout every generation. However, as believers in Christ, we don't have to yield to temptations.

Yet too many of us do not have a method for dealing with them. In fact, some Christians are ensnared in sin because they don't know how to resist. There is a way to respond that will help us build a strong defense. If we'll go to the One who successfully conquered temptation every time, we can learn lessons from His example.

The Holy Spirit deliberately led Jesus into a time of testing in order to prepare Him for ministry. This is the same reason the Lord allows temptations in our lives—for our testing and preparation. Temptation is an enticement to act contrary to God's will, and this is exactly what Satan was attempting in this situation with Jesus and what he continually tries to do with us. Every time we are enticed to disobey God with our thoughts, words, or actions, we must choose whether to walk faithfully with the Lord or go our own way.

II. Satan is the Tempter

The tempter is called by many names in Scripture: the devil, Satan, accuser, slanderer, and father of lies, just to name a few. He is an intelligent being who is completely evil and is directly involved in perpetrating evil in individuals, and on a larger scale, in the world. Satan is a fallen angel who first appears in the Scriptures in the Garden of Eden where he seduced Eve to believe a lie. He is the original source of sin and continues to spread his lies to this day.

One of Satan's deceptions is convincing people that he doesn't exist. The timing of this episode in Jesus' life is also significant. Satan waited until Christ was weak with hunger after forty days of fasting. He also uses the same tactic in our lives by tempting us when we are the most vulnerable physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

III. The limits of our temptations are set by the Lord who has established boundaries over which Satan cannot cross.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. The plan of defense against temptation is reliance upon the Word of God!*

IV. The Influences We Face

1 John 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Genesis 3:6 *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband*

with her; and he did eat.

The Lust of the Flesh - Contemplating

The mind – will - emotions

The Lust of the Eyes - Gratification

The Pride of Life – Takes credit for the works of God

James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

Hebrews 3:8-9 *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*

Matthew 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

• Imaginations

Romans 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

V. We are in a War

1 Timothy 1:18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;*

• Don't give place to the devil

Ephesians 4:26-27 *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*

When the devil came with tempting suggestions, Jesus didn't argue or engage him in conversation but immediately responded with passages from the Scriptures.

• First Satan tempted Jesus to use His divine, supernatural power to satisfy His hunger saying, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." (Matt. 4:3). Christ immediately answered,

"It is written: 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'" (v. 4).

• Then the devil suggested that Jesus jump off the pinnacle of the temple and miraculously land on His feet in order to attract a crowd (vv. 5-6).

This time he even used Scripture verses to support his proposal. Again

Jesus quoted the Word of God as His defense, "Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." (v. 7).

• Finally, Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain to show Him all the kingdoms of the world. He offered to hand them all over to Christ if He would bow down and worship him (vv. 8-9). Basically, the devil was offering Jesus a shortcut to the kingdom so as to avoid the cross. But Christ said, "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (v. 10).

CONCL – We have no power to beat the devil at temptation apart from the Word of God. This is the ammunition the Lord has given us to defend ourselves. Within the Scriptures are the power and promises of God. However, we each need to find the particular verses that apply to our individual temptations. Satan doesn't use the same enticements on all of us, but instead, he customizes them to our particular personalities and weaknesses.