

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

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Matthew 4:1-11

1. Jesus had just been:
  - a. Baptized by John.
  - b. Anointed by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Attested to by God the Father, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
2. Luke revealed that, "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days." Luke 4:1-2
3. Mark stated that, "the Spirit impelled Him to go into the wilderness." Mark 1:12
4. Jesus had a divine appointment with the Devil.

NOTE: God uses the Devil for His own purposes. Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

5. The temptation of Jesus demonstrates two important truths.
  - a. Jesus' right and qualifications to be our sinless substitute.
    - (1) Jesus was God, but also a man, and as a man he possessed our appetites and drives.  
NOTE: After fasting for forty days, "He then became hungry."
    - (2) He was, "...tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:16
  - b. How to have victory over sin.
6. Here the Devil is referred to as the Tempter.
  - a. He uses our appetites and drives against us. James 1:12-15  
Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death
  - b. He understands and exploits human nature. 1 John 2:15-17  
Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
    - (1) "The lust of the flesh."
    - (2) "The lust of the eyes."
    - (3) "The boastful pride of life."  
NOTE: The Devil used all three against Eve. Gen 3:6  
When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
7. He used the same approach with Jesus.
  - a. "You are hungry, so use your power to provide yourself food."
  - b. "Demonstrate that You are God's Son by publicly displaying Your power."

- c. "See all that the world has to offer and understand my ability to deliver it to You without all this suffering and death stuff."
- 8. The Devil's approach did not work with Jesus, and, if we are in Christ, it does not have to work with us either.
- 9. What was true of Jesus needs to be true of us if we want victory over sin.

### **I. Jesus knew that He was one with the Father.**

- A. In John 1:30 Jesus stated, "I and the Father are one."
- B. Those who belong to Christ share His oneness with the Father.
- C. Jesus prayed that we would experience the same unity with the Father that He had.

John 17:20-23

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

### **II. Jesus was filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.**

- A. The same should be true of us. Rom 8:12-17

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

- 1. The Holy Spirit is in every true follower of Jesus Christ. Rom 8:9

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

- 2. Every true follower of Jesus Christ is empowered by the Holy Spirit to put to death the deeds of the body (the flesh). 13
- 3. Every true follower of Jesus can know what it is to be led by the Spirit just like Jesus was. 14
- 4. Every true follower of Jesus will be assured of the salvation and eternal life by the Holy Spirit. 16

- B. Paul declared, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." Galatians 5:16

### **III. Jesus knew the Word of God.**

- A. Each temptation was met by a response from God's Word.

- 1. "If God tells me to make a stone bread I will do it."
- 2. "If God tells me to jump I'll jump."
- 3. "Only God is to be worshiped and served.

- B. Note Psalm 119:9-11.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

#### **IV. Jesus desired to please the Father.**

A. Jesus clearly stated this fact in John 8:28-29.

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and **I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.** 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; **He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**" 30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.

B. The Apostle John stated that what was true about Jesus can be true about us.

1 John 3:21-22

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.**

#### **APPLICATION**

1. Satan's attempt to get Jesus to act independently of God the Father was a bold attack on the unity and integrity of the Godhead.

2. Our enemy is always trying to get us to neglect our relationship with God in order that he might manipulate us, compromise our testimony, and keep us from fulfilling God's will for our lives.

3. At the conclusion of Luke's account of the temptation we read, "When the Devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time." Luke 4:13

4. The Devil is an opportunist, and he is always looking for an opportunity.

5. Those who walk by the flesh are easy targets, while those who are in Christ, who know the Word of God, who want to please God, and who walk by the Spirit are not easy targets. Eph 4:25-27

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another. 26 **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 **and do not give the devil an opportunity.**