

The Temptations of Jesus Mt. 4:1-11

Introduction:

The story of the temptation of Jesus gives us much encouragement today. Not only did Jesus endure temptations from Satan, but He did not sin in the process. This story gives us great encouragement because it tells us that we are not alone when it comes to the temptations of Satan. Today we will look at the temptations that Jesus faced along with the encouragement that we can get from them.

I. It is important for us to know that Jesus was tempted in the same manner as us.

- A. There are three basic ways in which men are tempted today.
 - 1. **I Jn. 2:15-17** - Do not love the world or 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, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - 2. The three basic forms of temptation are lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.
- B. Jesus was tempted in the same manner as we are today.
 - 1. Lust of the flesh (**4:1-4**).
 - a. Satan commands Jesus to turn the rocks into bread.
 - b. Satan wanted Jesus to fill His stomach with food.
 - c. Remember, Jesus had not eaten in 40 days; and this would fulfill His desire to eat.
 - 2. Pride of life (**4:5-7**).
 - a. Satan takes Jesus to the top of the temple and commands Him to jump off.
 - b. If Jesus were to do this, He would be able to demonstrate His power over the angels in heaven.
 - c. It would also let Satan know how powerful Jesus really is.
 - 3. Lust of the eyes (**4:8-10**).
 - a. Satan takes Jesus up to a high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world.
 - b. Satan tells Jesus to fall down and worship him and he will give Jesus all of these kingdoms.
 - c. It might have been tempting for Jesus to be able to own all of the kingdoms of the world.
- C. We need to remember one about these temptations.
 - 1. Jesus was tempted just like we are tempted today.
 - 2. **Heb 4:15** - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

II. Jesus teaches us how to deal with temptation.

- A. One important thing to remember is that Jesus dealt with these temptations as a man, not as God.
 - 1. Jesus did not perform any miracle in order to defeat the temptations of Satan.
 - 2. He uses the same power that we can use today, the word of God.
 - a. **Rom. 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
 - b. **Heb. 4:12** - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 - c. It is that same word that we have today.
- B. Jesus teaches us the importance of using the word of God correctly.
 - 1. In response to each temptation, Jesus uses Scripture.
 - a. Stones to bread: **Deut. 8:3**
 - b. Jump off of the top of the temple: **Deut. 6:16**
 - c. Kingdoms of the world from the mountain: **Deut. 6:13, 10:20**
 - 2. Not only did He use the word of God, but He used it correctly.
 - a. **II Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - b. **II Tim. 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - 3. When we are faced with temptation today, we need to use the word of God.
 - a. However, we must be very careful to use the Scriptures correctly.
 - b. If we are going to use the Scriptures correctly, we must know what the Scripture says.
- C. It is important to use the Scriptures correctly because even Satan used Scriptures while tempting Jesus.
 - 1. While Satan was tempting Jesus by taking Him up to the top of the temple, Satan quotes from the Scriptures.
 - a. Satan uses **Ps. 91: 11-12**.
 - b. If Satan is willing to use Scriptures out of context, we can be assured that it can be done today as well.
 - 2. Whenever we use Scripture out of context, we are wrong.
 - a. It does not matter what point we are making, if we misuse the Scriptures, we are wrong.
 - b. Even if it is a good point, the Scripture out of context is wrong.

II. Jesus teaches us that if we are willing to resist Satan, he will flee from us.

- A. After the temptations of Jesus, we are told that Satan left the presence of Jesus.
 - 1. Luke 4:13 Adds that Satan “departed from Him until an opportune time.”
 - 2. Because Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan, Satan departed from Him.
- B. We have that great promise that if we resist Satan, he will depart from us.
 - 1. Eph. 4:26-27 - "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, {27} nor give place to the devil.
 - 2. Js. 4:7 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
 - 3. We must always remember that in order to resist the devil, we must turn to God.

Conclusion:

Jesus teaches us what it means to defeat temptation. He met all of the challenges of Satan and remained perfect in the process. Throughout this story, Jesus teaches us how we can survive the temptations of Satan. After all, God made us a great promise in I Cor. 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.