

THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13** – inspired record of Satan’s temptations of Jesus
- 2) This was a dramatic encounter between good and evil on this earth
- 3) **Temptation** is the enticement of human desires to sin against God (Jas. 1:12-15)
 - a) Temptation focuses on exploiting the lusts and pride of this world (1 Jn. 2:16)
- 4) Jesus endured temptation without sinning (Heb. 4:15)
 - a) Why it was necessary for God to come “in the flesh” (Heb. 2:14a, 17-18)
 - b) Satan enticed Jesus to be selfish and disobey His Father in heaven – unsuccessful!
- 5) Important lessons can be learned to aid us in overcoming temptation (Heb. 2:18)

I) **How to Meet Temptation**

- A) **Be prepared** (*Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights*)
 - 1) Be aware of Satan’s schemes (2 Cor. 2:11 – enticement, deceit, fear, pleasure, division, etc.)
 - 2) Be sober and vigilant (1 Pet. 5:8 – presence of mind and watchful)
- B) **Know God’s word** (*Jesus answered, “It is written”*)
 - 1) Must be “steadfast in the faith” (1 Pet. 5:9)
 - 2) Ignorance is dangerous (Hos. 4:6)
- C) **Resist and escape** (*Jesus told Satan to go away*)
 - 1) “Resist” (1 Pet. 5:9 – set against, oppose; strongly resist an opponent)
 - 2) Take the way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13 – the “way out” of a trap)

II) **How to Use God’s Word to Overcome Temptation** (see Psa. 119:11)

- A) **Authority** (*Matt. 4:3-4*)
 - 1) God [Jesus] and His word are our authority in word and deed (Jn. 12:48; Col. 3:17)
 - 2) The *man* and His *plan* are both our guide toward eternal life (Lk. 6:46; Matt. 7:21)
- B) **Harmony** (*Matt. 4:6-7*)
 - 1) Must never use one scripture to contradict other scriptures (Psa. 119:160; 2 Pet. 3:16)
 - a) John 3:16 – believe *only* to be saved? Yet baptism saves us (1 Pet. 3:21)
 - b) Matthew 7:1 – *never* judge as to what is false? Yet not fellowship error (Eph. 5:11)
- C) **Application** (*Matt. 4:8-10*)
 - 1) Need to choose worshiping and serving God above all other things (Josh. 24:15)
 - 2) Sacrifice whatever time, treasure, or status to honor God and His way (Acts 5:29)

III) **How to Survive Temptation Throughout Life**

- A) Put first God and His things (Deut. 6:13; Matt. 6:33; 16:21-23; Col. 3:1-2)
- B) Trust fully God and His ways (Deut. 6:16; Eph. 1:13)
- C) Live faithful to God and His word (Deut. 8:3; Rom. 12:1-2)

Conclusion

Temptations will continually confront those who follow God. Even Jesus endured continual and constant temptations throughout His life (Lk. 4:13; Heb. 4:15). His example of stubborn resistance and scriptural rebukes of Satan teaches us how to meet and overcome temptation. Let us follow His example and strive to overcome every temptation of the devil (Jas. 1:12).