

The Temptation of Jesus

Luke 4:1-13

March 14, 2021

Introduction—Why Was Jesus Tempted?

To prove that Jesus could handle the pressure.

To demonstrate that Jesus had power over sin.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

To provide encouragement for followers.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 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. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus was tempted so that every creature in heaven, on earth, or under the earth might know that Jesus Christ is the Conqueror. He exposed Satan and his tactics, and He defeated Satan. Because of His victory, we can have victory over the tempter.

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3

Here is what is true based on Jesus' temptation and the temptation we face:

1) No one is immune to temptation.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 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.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

James 1:14-15

Because we live in a fallen world, where Satan is prince of this world, we MUST be on guard.

When did the enemy tempt Jesus? When He was alone. One of Satan's greatest weapons is to get you alone or make you feel like you're alone. This is just one reason gathering with other Believers is so important.

Notice right after Jesus is obedient to the Father He is then tempted.

2) Every person has certain “temptation tendencies”.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5

In other words, some have weaknesses that others don't and vice versa. We must be aware of these; be on guard against these and pray through these.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

Get out of the bed every morning acknowledging your weaknesses and our need for God. Call on God to surrender to Him moment by moment.

3) Jesus' response to all of His temptations were straight from Scripture, ours should be also.

1st Temptation- lust of the flesh (food).

Seeking to meet God given needs in an ungodly way. (independent of the Father). Jesus Response, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*" **Deuteronomy 8:3**

2nd Temptation- pride of life.

Seeking to make another name great- my will, my way, a name for me. (v 7). Jesus' response, "*Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*" **Luke 4:8**

3rd Temptation- lust of the eyes (seeking shortcut to God's kingdom).

Satan misuses Scripture, Jesus fights back with "*you shall not tempt the Lord your God.*" **Deuteronomy 6:16**

Satan knew/knows Scripture, but he doesn't use it in context. Apart from Jesus Himself, our greatest weapon against the enemy is His Word.

4) Jesus can identify with our temptation.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 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. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

We may sometimes say: "You don't know what I am going through."

"No, we should *not* say that to Jesus, because Jesus could say this: 'Given what I know of being in the flesh and given what I know of being in the Spirit and having the Spirit and being one with the Spirit, and given what I know of bearing all the sins of the world, even your battle in my body on the tree, and given what I know of seeing into the heart of every saint whose every battle in every day this world has existed, and given what I know of temptation and spiritual warfare on Maundy Thursday and Friday morning, I *do* know what you are going through. I know it in the very best way a Savior can know it. And so because I know your battle the way I know it, I can save you from it. And if I knew it any other way, there would be no saving.'" ~ **John Piper**

5) In all temptation:

- Ask, "what do I really want"?
- Realize our best combat is not on the defense but on the offense.
- Planned neglect: We need to simply neglect some things in our life.

Until our temptations/sin are replaced with Jesus we will never be satisfied, period!

Prayer Focus:

- **How are you being tempted?**
- **Are you living there?**
- **Are you giving into temptation?**
- **What this morning might you need to lay down?**
- **Might you commit to be geared up for battle with God's Word and walking with God.**