

First Temptation

- The subtle deception of Satan
 - “If you are the Son of God...”
 - This is not a statement of doubt
 - It is a statement for Jesus to prove who he is
 - Satan hides the temptation behind what could be a well-intentioned motive, i.e. knowing that Christ is the Son (John 20:30-31)
 - “...command these stones to become loaves of bread”
 - In and of itself, there would have been nothing wrong with the act of turning stones to bread
 - The miracle itself could be likened to some of Christ’s other miracles (Matthew 14:15-21)
- How easy could it have been for Christ to rationalize performing this miracle?
 - “I’m only proving who I am.”
 - “There’s *technically* nothing *wrong* with turning stones into bread.”
 - “If all I’m doing is proving who I am and there’s nothing wrong with it, it couldn’t hurt to do it. Since I did it for such good reasons, and I’m so hungry anyway, it couldn’t hurt to eat it.”
- The insight of Christ
 - “It is written...”
 - Christ’s knowledge of the Word allowed him to see through Satan’s lies
 - His knowledge of the Word allowed him to put a stop to the work of Satan (Ephesians 6:16)
 - “...‘Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God’”
 - Christ shows us Satan’s true intention
 - Deuteronomy 8:1-6
 - The temptation was for Christ to rely on his power rather than God for sustainment
 - “Led by the Spirit” vs. “Led by self”

Second Temptation

- The subtle deception of Satan
 - Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
 - And quotes from Scripture – “It is written”
 - “He will command his angels concerning you” (Psalm 91:11)
 - “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:12)
 - If Christ will do this, he will be showing his faith in these Scriptures
- The insight of Jesus
 - “It is written...”
 - Christ understood that Scripture could be misused (see 2 Peter 3:16)
 - The understanding of one passage is shaped by Scripture a whole
 - “...‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
 - Again, Christ shows his true intentions
 - Deuteronomy 6:16; Exodus 17:1-7

- The temptation was not about Christ's faith in God; it was about testing God's presence and patience to act
- "God is here (and I'll live by trust)" vs. "I don't know that God is here (so I'll live by test)"

Third Temptation

- The unsubtle deception of Satan
 - Satan's pattern
 - Like with Eve, Satan tries opening the doors with subtleties ("Did God actually say..." Genesis 3:1)
 - He abandons subtlety, making an outright attack ("You will not surely die..." Genesis 3:4)
 - He no longer "hides behind good things"
 - He showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world and their glory and promised them if Christ would worship him
 - Did he have this power?
 - "For it has been delivered to me" (Luke 4:6)
 - Satan still had power (note Hebrews 2:14-15)
 - He is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - What was the temptation?
 - "King by means of Satan" vs. "King by means of the cross"
- The insight of Jesus
 - "Be gone, Satan!"
 - Jesus makes a declaration for the tempter to leave with his temptations...and it is done (4:11)
 - We are told much the same (James 4:7)
 - "It is written..."
 - From beginning to end, subtlety to outright contradiction, the Word answers Satan
 - The Word shows the true and right path (Psalm 119:105; John 3:20-21)
 - "...You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve"
 - He recognized that God is first (see Matthew 6:33)
 - In all the temptations, Christ showed outright trust in God, remaining faithful to him
 - What of us? (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The Significance

- These were not the *only* temptations of Christ
 - He was tempted for the 40 days (Luke 4:1-2)
 - The devil left him "until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13)
- He endured temptation just as we do
 - He is able to help those who are tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18)
 - He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15)
- He has shown us "the way of escape"
 - The word of God
 - Complete trust in God
 - Which is built in the Word (Romans 10:17)
 - And strengthened in prayer (Matthew 7:7-11)