

MORE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

Introduction

- 1) **Luke 4:1-13** – inspired record of Satan’s temptations of Jesus in the wilderness
 - a) Satan was unsuccessful; Jesus taught us to be prepared, know God’s word, and resist Satan; we overcome temptation by putting God and His word first in our daily lives
 - b) Satan “departed from Him *until an opportune time*” (v. 13)
 - c) Satan planned to tempt Jesus again – more temptations of Jesus
- 2) All through the life of Jesus, Satan tempted Jesus to do evil (cf. Lk. 22:28)
 - a) Jesus was “in all points tempted as we are” – continual struggle (Heb. 4:15)
 - b) Often involved wrong actions and words of those around Jesus – temptation of influence
- 3) What are some additional times of temptation that Jesus faced that we can learn from today?

I) The Temptation to Bask in Human Popularity

- A) Jesus was very popular in Capernaum – everyone looking for Him (Mk. 1:32-39)
 - 1) Got away alone and prayed; affirmed His mission of preaching (vv. 35, 38)
- B) After feeding of 5000, the people were ready to make Jesus king (Jn. 6:14-15)
 - 1) Again, Jesus departs to be alone; avoided basking in human popularity
- C) We must be careful to seek to please God, not men (1 Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10)
 - 1) Earthly popularity is alluring, but rarely equals godly approval (Lk. 6:26; Jn. 15:19)

II) The Temptation to Soften the Exposure of Error

- A) After exposing the hypocritical error of the scribes and Pharisees, the disciples inform Jesus that His words offended the Pharisees (Matt. 15:1-12)
 - 1) Were they embarrassed? Did they want Jesus to soften or cease His criticism?
 - 2) Jesus rightly rejected all temptations to soften His preaching, and continued to warn about the very real spiritual danger of error and false teachers (vv. 13-14)
- B) We can be tempted to “dial it back” or cease our exposure of sin and error when others express feelings of embarrassment or uncomfortableness (Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:2)

III) The Temptation to Ignore the Needy and Helpless

- A) Those with Jesus tried (unsuccessfully) to keep Him from being bothered by certain ones
 - 1) Little children (Mk. 10:13-16); blind man (Lk. 18:35-43)
- B) We can be tempted to ignore those who are needy, weak, overlooked – a kind word and a saving message can change lives for the better (1 Thess. 5:14)

IV) The Temptation to Fight Back Against Persecution

- A) Jesus suffered severe and wrongful persecution (Matt. 26:67-68; 27:27-31)
 - 1) Endured such sufferings without reviling and threatening in return (1 Pet. 2:21-23)
- B) We are to endure sufferings as Christians in the same way (1 Pet. 2:19-20; 4:19)
 - 1) Let us strive to be Christ-like and humble in dealing with wrongs (Matt. 5:39-41)

V) The Temptation to Avoid Suffering and Dying on the Cross

- A) When Jesus foretold His suffering and death, Peter rebuked Him (Matt. 16:21-22)
 - 1) “This shall not happen to You!” – an adversary’s “stumbling block” to Jesus (v. 23)
 - 2) Even on the cross, several mocked Jesus telling Him to save Himself (Lk. 23:35-39)
- B) Jesus had to stay mindful of the things of God, not men (Matt. 26:39) – so must we!

Conclusion

We can all rejoice that Jesus overcame all these temptations and died for us that we might live for Him (2 Cor. 5:15). May we follow His example in overcoming temptation and live faithfully to receive the crown of life (Jas. 1:12).