

Temptation of Christ

[Part II]

The Last Temptation of Christ

Slanders and lies

Those who never read NT accounts believe lies

Mk.1:12-13 –

- Immediately (v.10)
- Drove out (= Gn.3:24)
- 40 days being tempted: entire stay in wilderness
- Wild animals (cf. Adam in Eden)

I. The Text – Mt.4:1-11; Lk.4:1-13

Led up by the Spirit...

[Luke 4:1, being filled with the Spirit]

- Jesus did not . . .
 - Choose temptation.
 - Carelessly enter temptation.
 - His passion: v.4, word of God
- Jesus returned from Jordan (Lk.3:21-22; 4:1)
 - After baptism, the battle

Being tempted for 40 days... – Lk.4:2

1. In those days He ate nothing... afterward...
He was hungry
[at His weakest, satan attacks]
2. Satan adapted temptation to circumstances

Devil... “If Son...command stones...bread”
– Lk.4:3

Devil has 4000 years of victories

- Gn.3: Adam's fall cursed human race
- Lk.4: Jesus' fall would curse eternal destiny of everyone

Jesus succeeded where Israel failed

- Complained when they had no food
- Complained when they had daily food: manna
 - Good times are dangerous, too
Job; David; Peter
- Complained when they remembered good ole' days in Egypt
- Controlled by hunger; sinful desires devoured birds, Nu.11 . . .
- Ps.105:40, people asked...He brought quail, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven

Contrast Israel and Jesus –

- Jesus: near starvation
 - Trusted Father
 - Resisted temptation
 - Drained cup of testing to last drop
- Intensified temptation: He could have produced food from rock with a word...
 - Ex.17; Nu.20

It is written... (Lk.4:4)

- His focus is spiritual food
 - “It is written” – perfect
 - Not limited to that generation; timeless
 - Ro.15:4, written for our learning
 - He accurately applied Scripture. Mt.14-15
 - Lesson: wrong priorities. Mt.6:33

But by every word...(Lk.4:4)

- 1st temptation: doubt word of God
 - True living is not based on earthly things (even necessities) but on Word.
Jn.10:10; Jn.4:34.
 - Dt.8:3 . . .

1. Old

4. Still binding

2. No original copy

5. Every word inspired

3. Still accurate

6. From God. 2 T.3

But by every word...

- He sustained Moses / Elijah 40 days...
 - Feelings, opinions, human wisdom cannot conquer temptations
 - Jesus' example helps us. 1 Pt.2:21

Holy city...pinnacle of Temple (Lk.4:9) – brought Him to Jerusalem

- Satan allowed to lead Him **up** in attempt to bring Him **down**
- “Throw Yourself down...” – Lk.4:10
 - Satan uses Lord’s weapon.
 - Tries to persuade Him to believe too much...
 - Jump at chance to perform great feat...
 - If you are Son of God, He will save you...
 - Scriptures back up satan’s claim (Lk.4:10).
Ps.91. Angels will bear you up!

Jesus responds... (7)

- It is written again... (Matthew 4:7)
- It has been said, You shall not tempt the LORD your God – Lk.4:12
 - God is to be trusted, not tempted.
 - Only Truth blesses.
 - 2nd temptation presumes upon Word of God.

The mountain (8)

(Lk.4:5, in moment of time)

- Jn.18:28-34, how to answer?
 - “Yes” – would be understood as political
 - “No” – would deny He is king at all.
- Jn.18:37, He is King...not like those of world (36-38)

All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me (9)

- Lk.4:6, 'all this authority I will give you, and their glory ... 7 if you will worship Me...
- Satan offered Jesus (as Gn.3)
- Consider 'fall down ... worship Me' story –
 - Gn.3, lost Eden, lives, joy; gained sin, guilt, misery, death, pain. Jn.8:44
 - Carnal Christians love Satan's offers.
 - How to give what he does not have? Mt.28

Away with you, Satan! (Mt.4:10)

“Get behind Me, satan” – Lk.4:8

- ‘Satan’ – adversary. What is there to worship – or admire? His lies? Cruelty? Destination?
- Worship LORD your God; and Him Only serve – Lk.4:8
 - Gn.3: Eden is paradise...till satan has his way.
 - Mt.4 / Lk.4: satan’s second attempt.

Then devil left Him (Mt.4:11)

“And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time” – Lk.4:13

- He is flustered. [He always won before]
- He departed . . . but does not quit.

I. The Text: Mt.4:1-11

II. The Teaching

1. Word overcame lust of flesh

- Worship / service to God overcame lust of eyes (Lk.4:5)
- Work His Father gave Him overcame pride of life – 1 Jn.2:16

2. How to face temptation?

- Promise of salvation to all who endure, Mt.10:22.
- Know Scriptures, Mt.4. Look to . . .
 - God, not satan
 - Scripture, not circumstances (hunger, pain)
 - Jesus, not others who cannot save
 - Victors (not failures, as Israel). Hb.11

3. Learn from the past, Ro.15:4.

- Mt.16:23, Get behind Me, Satan
- Hb.12:2, looking unto Jesus...

4. God's faithfulness, 1 Co.10:13

5. We reap what we sow, Gal.6:7-8

6. Resist the devil, Ja.4:7

7. Be on the lookout, 1 Pt.5:8

- Dt.6:13, 16, severe temptation for Israel
- Easy to devote themselves to Canaan's treasures, forget they were gift of God's love to patriarchs...and to their heathen neighbors
- We face same temptations as Israel (1 Co.10; Hb.3-4)

Satan could not conquer Jesus

- If satan brings down His disciples – Mt.16; 26
... They cannot defeat satan; Lord's mission is defeated...
- Satan now tries to defeat Lord's cause through modern disciples. 1 Co.3, 5, 15...
- We can defeat him any time we want to.