



Part 2 Intense Temptation

*“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.”
Luke 4:1, 2*

The only human witness to the temptation was Jesus. Why did Jesus relate this event to the disciples? To teach them three of His strategies -- which explain why He acts the way He acts for the rest of His ministry -- and three strategies of the tempter.

Three strategies of Jesus:

1. Jesus won't _____
“After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” - Luke 4:3, 4; Matt. 4:4

2. Jesus won't _____
“The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. He said, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” - Luke 4:5-8

3. Jesus won't _____
“The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down from here. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered, ‘It says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” - Luke 4:9-12

Jesus is...

- _____
- _____
- _____

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...” Phil. 2:5

Three strategies of Satan:

1. _____
God wants you to be happy and healthy, right?
“...tell this stone to become bread.” - Matt. 4:2; Luke 4:3

2. _____
Think of the great good that will come from this small compromise!
*“I will give you all their **authority** and **splendor**... if you worship me...”
Luke 4:5-7*

3. _____
God will protect and forgive you anyway!
“Throw yourself down... For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully...” - Luke 4:9-11

“...so that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” - 2 Cor. 2:11

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” 1 Pet. 5:8

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: *“Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” - Luke 4:8*

Monday

Read Luke 4:1-13. What do you learn about Satan's tactics in this account?

What do you learn about Jesus' tactics in this account?

Look at page one of your notes from this weekend. In this account, Jesus is, in a way, explaining the rules of His incarnation that He has set for Himself: He will be unselfish, humble, and gentle in His use of power. How do you see Him practicing these strategies throughout his life?

Has the church through the ages always behaved as Jesus modeled here? Why not?

Ask God to help you have the same humble, gentle attitude Jesus had.

Tuesday

Reread Luke 4:1-13. How does Satan's use of Scripture differ from the way Jesus uses it?

If the devil had three shots at you, what three temptations would he use?

What encouragement do you find in these verses?

Bring your biggest temptations to Jesus right now. Ask him to empower you to change your life by his grace!

Wednesday

Read Matthew 4:1-11. What are you tempted by that is either sinful, fattening, or expensive?

What human need is at the heart of each temptation?

How does Satan use these to tempt you?

What is your greatest temptation right now?

What do you learn about Christ's responses that can help you in this area?

Ask God to help you yield to His sovereign will for your life. Spend some time in worship of Him right now!

Thursday

On the subject of temptation, read James 1:12-16. Based on this Scripture, how would you explain to a ten year old why a person does something wrong?

Why do we often blame God when we sin?

What does James have to say about that?

What can a person do to stop an evil desire from becoming an actual act?

What one area of your life do you need to turn over to God today?

Give God that area of your life right now. Thank Him for His forgiveness and grace.

Friday

One of the great results of reading of the many temptations of Jesus is this: We know He relates to us! Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How is Jesus able to sympathize with us?

In what ways was Jesus tempted, not just in Luke 4 and Matt. 4, but throughout His life?

How can we then approach God, according to these verses?

How does the sympathy and understanding of Christ motivate you when temptations arise?

Approach the throne of grace with confidence right now, thanking God for His sympathy and His unconditional love!

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!! Keep your eyes on Jesus, the lover of your soul!