

What is Jesus' response to this temptation?

What would that response mean to your life?

How does knowing that Jesus understands temptation hearten you in your struggles?

Thank God today that He understands temptation. Thank Him for the opportunity for growth that resisting temptation brings. Pray that you will be aware of the pitfalls that Satan may put in front of you. Ask God to show you the way out when you're tempted.

Saturday

Please be sure you know this week's memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that your heart will be ready to receive what God has for you. Pray that our church will be a place where people love and live like Jesus Christ!

Life Like Jesus

PART 3

Handling Temptation Like Jesus

April 24 & 25, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. *Matthew 4:1 (NIV)*

NOTE: When I am tempted, there is always _____ than I realize.

Three tests at the root of every temptation

1. The _____ test: "You need it!"

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." *Matthew 4:2-3*

ANSWER: _____

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" *Matthew 4:4 (See Matthew 6:31-33)*

2. The _____ test: "You won't get hurt!"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" *Matthew 4:5-6*

ANSWER: _____

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" *Matthew 4:7*

3. The _____ test: "You deserve it!"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the **kingdoms** of the world and their **splendor**. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." *Matthew 4:8-9*

ANSWER: _____

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" *Matthew 4:10 (See Matthew 16:26)*

Two overarching strategies from this story:

- I must _____ and make it my authority
- I must do God's _____ God's _____

Good news and bad news

“When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him **until an opportune time.**” *Luke 4:13*

BAD NEWS: Temptation is seasonal, but it never _____.

“Jesus returned to Galilee in **the power of the Holy Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.” *Luke 4:14*

GOOD NEWS: The Holy Spirit gives me _____.

Daily Meditations

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

Monday

Read Matthew 4:1–11 & James 1:12–16. How would you explain to a ten-year-old why a person does something wrong?

Which of the temptations listed on page 1 do you struggle with the most?

As you read the account of Christ's temptation, what is most interesting to you?

What is most encouraging to you?

Thank God today that you have a Savior who understands temptation. Talk to Him about the struggles you are facing. Pray for spiritual and emotional strength to resist temptation and choose what is right.

Tuesday

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

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

What do you learn about Satan's tactics in this account?

What do you learn about Jesus' tactics?

Thank God today that you are not alone. Thank Him for the opportunity to study the Bible. Bring your biggest temptations to Jesus right now. Ask Him to empower you to change your life by His grace!

Wednesday

Read Matthew 4:1–4 & 6:31–33. How are you tempted to replace pain with pleasure — maybe something sinful, fattening or expensive?

What do you learn from Christ's response that can help you in your struggles?

How does our culture make it hard not to live for your appetite?

How can you help yourself in this struggle?

Thank God today for the many pleasures He blesses your life with. Talk to Him about the pains you may be experiencing. Pray for the grace to handle your pain with patience and integrity. Ask God to give you great joy as you follow Him and live in His timing.

Thursday

Read Proverbs 27:21, Matthew 4:5–7 & 1 Peter 5:5–11. The praise and acclamation of the crowd is a big temptation, and was probably part of Satan's suggestion that Jesus float down from the temple pinnacle: People would have been amazed at his power! How does Jesus respond to this temptation?

In what area of your life do you need to have a similar response?

What do these other verses say about handling the praise of others?

Thank God today that He loves you unconditionally. Thank Him for Jesus' example. Talk to Him about the influence that people's words have on you. Pray that you'll be gracious in your response to people's praise but not dependent on it.

Friday

Read Matthew 4:8–11, 16:26 & 1 Timothy 6:17–20. In a society that pushes prosperity and possessions from every side this can be a difficult test to even detect! What is the danger in placing possessions before people?

How have you been caught in that trap before?



Memory Verse

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. *Hebrews 4:15*