

3/30/14

**The Temptation of Jesus, Pt. 1****Lk. 4:1-13**

Jesus has been baptized by John, the Holy Spirit has descended upon Him in the form of a dove and being filled with the Holy Spirit Jesus was literally driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted of the devil. Matt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12; Lk. 3:21-22; 4:1

Some people think Satan is an invention of Christians, but he is as real as you or I.

\* Make no mistake as to who Satan is, he is a deceiver and destroyer, the ruler and god of this world. Jn. 12:31; 2Cor. 4:4

Satan is a rebellious enemy of God, a usurper who has threatened to dethrone God, it is recorded in Isaiah. Is. 14:12-17

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. “Those who see you will gaze at you, *And* consider you, *saying*: ‘Is this

the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, *Who* did not open the house of his prisoners?”

We want to study the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness by Satan to make some very important observations in order to gain insight as to what exactly happened when Jesus was tempted, then next time we will deal with the three temptations verse by verse.

\* The temptation of Jesus is recorded in the three synoptic gospels, John does not record it because Jesus is God and God can not be tempted. Matt. 4; Mk. 1; Lk. 4

We want to ask four questions about the temptation of Jesus. Lk. 4:1-13

- I. How was Jesus tempted?
- II. Why did Jesus have to be tempted?
- III. Who was tempted?
- IV. What were the weapons of Jesus, to resist the temptations?

**I. How was Jesus tempted?**

A. The book of Hebrews tells the extent to which Jesus was tempted.

1. We are told and to understand that Jesus, “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15b

- a. In every area, level, way and manner of temptation that man can and will ever be tempted, Jesus was tempted.
  - b. The word tempted “peirazo”, means to test or try.
  - c. There is no sin in being tempted, only in giving in to the temptation!
2. That is the reason why the first part of the same verse says, “For we do not have a **High Priest** who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses.” Heb. 4:15a
- 1) Jesus can identify with my temptations and my weakness.
  - 2) Each of us are different, what may be a temptation to you may not be to me.
  - 3) What is a constant struggle and intense warfare to me, He understands, when others do not.
3. Therefore, we are to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16
- a. Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest, who can sympathize with our weaknesses.
  - b. Man will only be able to do this some times, not all times.
- B.** The temptations that befell Jesus, can be put into three categories, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. 1Jn. 2:16

1. Jesus was first tempted in the area of the physical, the desires of the flesh, the body, as the devil said, “If you be the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” Lk. 4:3-4
- a. There was nothing wrong with Jesus eating, as we will see next week, but the areas of the physical has many things that can complicate and destroy our life.
  - b. Yet eating can be a great problem because we eat more than we need or too much of food not good for us.
  - c. There is the area of clothing, men and women are both guilty of this, but women seem to excel.
  - d. Materialism, sexual, etc, you fill in the blank.
2. Jesus next was tempted in the area of the soul, the desires of the eye, as the devil took Him up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, He declared, “All authority I will give to You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” Lk. 4:5-8
- a. The soul comprises of our intellect, emotions and the will.
  - b. The intellect and will of man through the sin nature is a slave to sin.

- c. The emotions conflict our intellect and will to do wrong when we know what is right, in order to satisfy and gratify ourselves.
  - d. Women are the most vulnerable to their emotions for decision-making.
3. Jesus then was then tempted in the area, of the spirit, the desires of the pride of life, the spirit, as the devil brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, “For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you, and In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’” Lk. 4:9-12; Ps. 91:11-12
- a. To pass ourselves off to be more spiritual than we are.
  - b. The way we say God or hold our Bible.
  - c. The little subtle hints, “As I was praying this morning, at 3 A. M.”
  - d. Presuming on my authority and tempting God, causing people to charge or blaspheme God.

C. The man Adam and the woman Eve were tempted in the very same way.

- 1. The woman saw that the tree was good for food, appealing to the body senses, being captivated. Gen. 3:6a
  - a. The entire purpose of advertising is to convince you that you need what is being presented.
  - b. Then to persuade you to go get it.
- 2. The fruit was pleasant to the eyes, the appeal is to the soul, being allured. Gen. 3:6b
  - a. The conflict of the intellect and will comes through emotions.
  - b. Bringing us to be a slave to the physical wants of the body.
- 3. The tree to desire to make one wise was the appeal to the spirit, being deceived for it brings union with God. Gen. 3:6c
  - a. The spirit is what makes us one with God.
  - b. The spiritual deception to be like God, to know more or better than God.
  - c. Every human being is tempted in these three areas, there is no exemption.
    - 1) The unbeliever is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1
    - 2) The believer still has a sin nature, but he has a divine nature to enabled by God to overcome or escape the temptation. 1Cor. 10:13
    - 3) John tells us, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the

lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” 1Jn. 2:16

- 4) “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Gal. 5:16-17

**D.** The contrasts between the temptation of Adam and Eve and the ones of Jesus are important.

1. Luke tells us that Jesus was being tempted for the forty days, then the three major ones came. Lk. 4:2  
\* Adam and Eve had only the one temptation.
2. Mark says Jesus was with the wild beasts. Mk. 1:13  
\* Adam and Eve were in the garden with tame animals.
3. Matthew and Luke both tell us that Jesus fasted 40 days and nights. Matt. 4:2; Lk. 4:2
  - a. Adam and Eve did not.
  - b. Moses and Elijah fasted for 40 days. Ex. 34:28; 1Kings 19:8
  - c. Fasting is to be done due because we are so concern to hear, directed or

empowered by God that it is not the priority.

\* Ever been concerned about your child in the hospital, the last thing on your mind is eating!

4. Luke tells us that Satan departed for a season, till a better opportunity. Lk. 4:13
  - a. Remember this, Satan will always come back when you and I are most vulnerable!
  - b. Nothing is said of Adam and Eve, and though we can see that both temptations were identical in body, soul, and spirit, we can also see that the circumstances of the Last Adam were not as favorable!
  - c. The temptation were more sever for Jesus!

***This is the way Jesus was tempted!***

**II. Why did Jesus have to be tempted?**

- A. First to demonstrate that the First Adam did not have to fail.
  1. The First Adam was made a living soul; the Last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 1Cor. 15:45
    - a. Adam was created in the state of innocence with a free will.
      - 1) He was given direct commands.

- 2) He had the capacity to obey or disobey.
  - 3) The consequences affected the entire human race. Rom. 5:12
  - 4) Each person has the same choice through Christ.
  - b. Jesus is called the Last Adam in contrast to the First Adam.
    - 1) Never call Jesus the second Adam, Jesus is called the Last Adam.
    - 2) Jesus was like the First Adam prior to the fall.
  - 2. The first man is of the earth: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 1Cor. 15:47
    - a. The first man Adam was in a state of innocence, with a free will.
    - b. The second man Jesus was just like the First Adam, with a free will.
- B.** Second to show us that we too can overcome and resist Satan and his emissaries in temptations, who can transform themselves into angels of light. 2Cor. 11:14-15
- 1. We will see that as Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness, it is a testimony to us that we have no excuse for failing.
    - a. I am not teaching that at some point we can reach “perfectionism” nor “sinlessness”.
    - b. But that we have no excuse or justification for our sin because as we

- will see Jesus resisted and overcame Satan as man depending on the Father, our example.
- 2. Jams gives us some very practical things. Ja. 4:7-8
    - a. The first step, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”
    - b. The second step, “Resist the devil.”
    - c. The promise, “and he will flee from you.”
    - d. The third step, “Draw near to God.”
    - e. The promise, “and he will draw near to you.”
    - f. The fourth step, “Cleanse your hearts, you double minded.”
      - 1) I do not talk to Satan or myself, you and I are not good company to talk to ourselves!
      - 2) We are no match for Satan in our flesh!
- C.** Third, to destroy the work of the devil. 1Jn. 3:8
- 1. The devil has sinned from the beginning.
    - a. The entire human race is fallen, due to Satan’s deception of Eve.
    - b. The entire human race has brought on itself corruption and destruction.
  - 2. The devil has sought to entice man to sin from the beginning.
    - a. Those who reject the gospel, remain deceived and slaves of sin.

- b. Those who put their trust in Jesus are freed, no longer being slaves of sin.

#### D. Forth to prove his Messiah ship

\* Jesus said, “The ruler of this world comes and he has nothing in Me”. Jn. 14:30

1. There was nothing to control Him.
2. There was nothing to accuse Him.
3. There Jesus faced Satan literally, face to face, not just in His mind or a vision.

*These are a few of the reasons why Jesus had to be tempted!*

### III. Who was tempted?

- A. The objection by some to Jesus having resisted the temptations is that He did it as God!

1. So some say, “but he was God that is why he could resist the way he did.
  - a. Remember Jesus is the Last Adam, the second Man, just like the First Adam, the first man.
  - b. Jesus came to undo the mess of the First Adam.
2. Therefore, we come to the important question of who was tempted.
  - a. The Son of God?
  - b. The Son of Man?
  - c. Jesus had two natures, human and divine, yet without sin!

- B. The Son of God speaks of his deity.

1. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:31, 32
2. He knew no sin, yet was made sin for us. 2Cor. 5:21
3. He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. 1Pet. 2:22
4. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. Is. 53:5
5. In Him was no sin. 1Jn. 3:5
  - a. James tells us that God cannot be tempted with evil. Ja. 1:13c
  - b. Paul tells us that, “Jesus was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...” Heb. 7:26

- B. The Son of Man speaks of His humanity, as man.

1. Both Matthew and Luke tell us that the appeal was to the Son of God. Matt. 4:3; Lk. 4:3
  - a. The repeated phrase, “If You are the Son of God is affirming not doubting! vs. 3
    - 1) The word if “ei” in this context means since, affirming He is the Son of God, since You are the Son of God do these three things.
    - 2) Satan was attempting to get Jesus as God to defeat him as God, which would of nullified the plan of redemption.

- 3) For God to resist and defeat Satan is no big deal, He is all-powerful, the Creator of Satan, who was a cherub in the angelic order.
  - 4) Jesus as God will defeat Satan one day confining him to the Lake of Fire, it was created for him. Matt. 25:41
- b. Yet Jesus answered, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. vs. 4
- 1) To show that the First Adam did not have to fail and that Jesus the Last Adam would not fail.
  - 2) To show that every person redeemed does not have to fail.
  - 3) There is no sin in being tempted, only in giving in to the temptation.
  - 4) Some Christians think they are evil if they get bad thoughts or are being tempted, no, you are evil even before the evil thoughts or temptation.
  - 5) Jesus told His disciples, “If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will Your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? Lk. 11:13  
\* It has been said, “You can not stop birds from flying over your

- head, but you can stop them from building a nest on it!”
2. The reason for Jesus confronting the devil as man.
    - a. To show that Jesus as second man could resist. 1Cor. 15:47
    - b. Jesus met Satan as the Last Adam, the man from heaven. 1Cor. 15:45-47
    - c. There is no sin in being tempted, but only in yielding to the temptation.
- C. The fact that the Son of Man was the one who was tempted, leads us to one very important question that must be asked, that at first might sound blasphemous.
1. Could the Son of Man as the Last Adam have failed, as the First Adam?
    - \* Remember He was identical as the First Adam without sin nature, prior to the fall.
    - a. First thing we want to acknowledge is that Jesus could not have sinned or He could not have been our redeemer.
      - \* He had no sin nature!
    - b. Second thing we want to acknowledge is that if Jesus could not have been tempted, He would not have been man like the First Adam and therefore certainly not our representative.
      - 1) These appear to be seeming contradictions, a paradox, irreconcilable truths, both are true!

- 2) God says He predestinates us and then He tells us to choose to be saved!
  - 3) Our intellect falls short of some of God's truth, I can only understand them to a certain point!
  - 4) Never allow what you don't understand to be destroyed what you do understand!
2. Was the temptation true and legitimate?
- a. The genuineness of a temptation is in the fact that there is a possibility of failure, otherwise if there was no possibility of failure then there could not have been no real temptation for Jesus!
  - b. No one is awarded a prize for being first in a race because there was no possibility of being second, third, etc., but only because there was that possibility.
  - c. The temptation of Jesus was a like temptation to Adam's, otherwise, it would be no temptation at all and God has deceived us all, telling us there was a victory when in fact there was no victory because there was no real test!
  - d. The Divine nature did not partake in the temptation!
3. Therefore, Jesus our Lord was both not able to sin and able not to sin!

- a. You and I are able to sin and able not to sin, as a Christian by the new divine nature, yet we will never be sinless or perfect!
- b. You remember how difficult it was the first time you stole something, your heart was beating, your conscience was haunting you and we familiar with sin and are sinful!
- c. Jesus was sinless in the innocent state as the First Adam, therefore the testing and suffering Jesus experienced because of being without sin had to have been greater than any we experience as sinful men and women!
- d. Only when one resists to the end, does one fully know the power of the temptation.
- c. Just as God knew that the First Adam would fail, God knew that the Last Adam would not.
  - 1) The angels ministered to him after, not before. Matt. 4:11; Mk. 1:13
  - 2) Let God be true and every man a liar. Rom. 3:4

### **Illustration**

All products are tested to show evidence of their claims and genuineness, not to disprove them!

***The Son of Man is the one who was tempted!***



#### IV. What were the weapons of Jesus, to resist the temptations?

\* You dare not neglect them or ignore them!

- A. The gospels tell us that at the baptism a voice came from heaven, which said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 3:17; Mk. 1:11; Lk. 3:22
1. So first of all, there was obedience!
    - a. Obedience to God is a weapon against sin, you and I can say no!
 

\* Every time I say not to sin, it proves I can say no the next time!
    - b. God desires nothing more than our full obedience to him.
  2. Samuel tells us that, “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”, rejecting God’s word. 1Sam. 15:22d
- B. The evangelist Luke alone tells us that He was praying as he was being baptized. Lk. 3:21
- \* “When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.”
1. Prayer speaks of dependency.
  2. Prayer speaks of readiness to obey.
  3. Prayer speaks of direction for God’s will.

4. We are told many things in the Scriptures about prayer.
    - a. We are to pray to God, as worship.
    - b. We are to pray always without ceasing.
    - c. We are to pray that we faint not.
    - d. We are to pray in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving and make our request unto God.
- C. The three synoptic gospels, as well as John’s tell us that the Spirit descended from heaven in the shape of a dove and abode upon him.
1. The preposition upon “epi” is for power. Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8
    - b. If we are filled and driven by our flesh we will tempt ourselves.
  2. Then and only then, are we told by Mark that immediately the Spirit “drove” him into the wilderness. Mk. 1:12
  2. Then Luke tells us that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee. Lk. 4:14
  3. That is the reason why the believer is told by Paul, “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit... Eph. 5:18

\* We are continuously to be filled, led, empowered and controlled by the Spirit of God!

- D.** The last but not least is the Word of God.
1. Jesus said it is written, quoting the Old Testament. Deut. 8:3; 6:13, 16  
\* The passages are from the wilderness journey of the children of Israel, who failed the testings!
  2. Apart from God's Word we have no control over our spirit and are as a city without walls open for destruction. Prov. 25:28
  3. We are to hide it in our hearts that we might not sin against God. Ps. 119:11
  4. We are to pant after God in soul as a heart after the water brooks. Ps. 42:1
    - a. Without knowing the word of God we will not be able to live, mature, develop, resist and be a conqueror! Rom. 12:1-2
    - b. Without knowing the word of God, we will not know the mind, will and promises of God!
    - c. Let me give you a few things about the word of God.
      - 1) Don't add to it!
      - 2) Don't alter it!
      - 3) Don't omit from it!
      - 4) Don't rip it out of context!

### **Conclusion**

These four questions about the temptation of Jesus have given us insight into some important observations.

- I.** How was Jesus tempted?  
\* He was tempted in all points without sin, so we can come to the throne of grace boldly in order to obtain mercy and grace in time of need!
- II.** Why did Jesus have to be tempted?  
\* He has given us the example and pattern that man can overcome!
- III.** Who was tempted?  
\* He was God, but being the Son of Man, He resisted as man!
- IV.** What were the weapons of Jesus, the Last Adam?  
\* Obedience, prayer, being filled with the Holy Spirit and the word of God!

***These are the weapons that Jesus used to resist and defeat the devil in the temptation!***