

10/1/17

The Temptation of Jesus

Matt. 4:1-11

We want to look at the temptation of Jesus and learned some important truths.

1. The reason Jesus had to be tempted was to demonstrate that the First Adam didn't have to fail and the Last Adam would not fail. 1Cor. 15:45, 47
2. The weapons of Jesus were prayer, obedience, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
3. Jesus came as the Last Adam, identical to the First Adam prior to the fall, two Federal heads.
 - * Luke gives the genealogy of Mary descending back to Adam, "the son of God", because Jesus was just like Adam, prior to the fall. Lk. 3:38d
4. Jesus defeated Satan by depending on the Father!
5. John says, "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1Jn. 2:16
 - a. The body, the lust of the flesh, the physical.
 - b. The soul, the lust of the eyes, the intellect, emotions and will.
 - c. The spirit, the pride of life, the spiritual.

The major temptations of Jesus are three, which fall into these three distinct categories: Lk. 4:1-11

- I.** The body, the lust of the flesh. vs. 1-4
- II.** The spirit, the pride of life. vs. 5-7
- III.** The soul, the lust of the eye. vs. 8-11

I. The temptation of the body, the lust of the flesh. vs. 1-4

- A. The preparation of Jesus for the temptation. vs. 1-2
 1. Jesus was completely subject and obedient to God, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit." vs. 1
 - a. The time is indicated by the word then "tote", "at that time", after the baptism of Jesus by John. Matt. 3:16-17
 - 1) All three synoptic gospels record the heaven opened, the origin of the Holy Spirit, but only Luke says Jesus was "filled with the Spirit." Lk. 3:22
 - 2) All three record the Father's voice, "You are My beloved Son in You I am well pleased." Lk. 3:22:Mk. 1:10-11
 - 3) God's sign to John was that on the one the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained, He was the One to baptize in the Holy Spirit. Jn. 1:33
 - b. The geographical change is also given to us by the phrase "led up".
 - 1) The Greek word "anago", means to bring up into a higher place.
 - 2) This indicates going from the lower Jordan valley to higher ground of the wilderness.

- 3) Mark says, “Immediately the Spirit drove Him, “ekballo” to throw out into the wilderness.” Mk, 1:12
- 4) The indicative aorist passive indicates Jesus was led during the entire time, as well as the willingness of Jesus to do the divine will. Lenski
- c. The leading was by the Spirit “pneuma”, the Third person of the Trinity.
 - 1) The Son had come from heaven.
 - 2) The Father spoke from heaven.
 - 3) The Spirit descended from heaven.
2. The purpose of the Spirit taking Jesus to higher ground was to be tempted by the devil. vs. 1
 - a. The word tempted “perirazo”, means to test or try in the infinitive aorist passive.
 - 1) The infinitive denotes the purpose, the aorist completeness, tested to the finish. Lenski
 - 2) The indication being the temptation continued during the entire time Jesus was led prior to the three temptations.
 - b. The tempter is identified as the devil.
 - 1) The word “diabolos”, means slanderer, false accuser, as Luke does. Lk. 4:2a
 - 3) Mark uses Satan “Satanas”, means adversary. Mk. 1:13
3. The extreme condition prior to the three main temptations. vs. 2

- a. Jesus was under a lengthy fast of forty days and nights. vs. 2a
 - 1) The word fasted “nesteuo” is a participle aorist active.
 - 2) The durative participle he fasted the 40 days during all the temptations of the devil, prior to the main three.
 - 3) No food only 8 weeks, water 1 week.
 - b. Jesus afterward was hungry. vs. 2b
 - 1) He had eaten nothing in forty days.
 - 2) He became hungry after, at the end of the forty days, the aorist active tense.
 - 3) Luke affirms this also. Lk. 4:2
- B.** The first temptation by the devil was that all Jesus needed was to meet His physical need, nothing else matters, lust of the flesh. vs. 3-4
 * Just like Eve, the woman saw that the tree was good for food, appealing to the body senses to captivate. Gen. 3:6a
1. The devil appeared to Jesus, “Now when the tempter came to Him.” vs. 3a-b
 - a. A Greek Scholar said, “the circumstantial participle is temporal. Not until this time did the tempter appear in person.”
 - 1) We are not told how the devil tempted Jesus prior to the first temptation.
 - 2) All three synoptic gospels omit any information prior the first temptations.

2. The devil spoke to Jesus, “And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God.” vs. 3b-c
 - a. Some say this was only in the mind of Jesus or a vision, not so!
 - 1) The entire account is literal.
 - 2) Mark and Luke are the same.
 - b. Two times the devil addressed Jesus by, “If You are the Son of God” vs. 3b
 - 1) The word if “ei” in this context means “since” You are the Son of God.
 - 2) The devil affirmed Jesus was the Son of God, not doubting it.
3. The devil was attempting to get Jesus to do a miracle as God to meet His own physical need, “command that these stones become bread”. vs. 3d
 - a. The devil gave to Jesus an order.
 - 1) The word command “epo” is an imperative command.
 - 2) The devil attempted to tempt Jesus that He might fail and nullify the plan of redemption, as the Last Adam.
 - b. There was nothing wrong with Jesus eating bread, it was legitimate, but not at this particular time.
 - 1) The temptation was to not trust His dependence on His Father, but self.
 - 2) The temptation was to act like Eve, concerned with the physical to satisfy her need, while possessing a spirit to

- be one with God, proving to be a false son.
3. The response of Jesus was that He was going to trust and depend on God. vs. 4
 - a. Jesus, the Last Adam pointed to the authority over His life, God’s Word, “But He answered and said, “It is written.” vs. 4a-b
 - 1) It is written, “grapho” refers to the Scriptures of the Old Testament, in the perfect tense, indicating once written, now stands forever. Lenski
 - 2) The quotation is from Deuteronomy, “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD” Duet. 8:2-3
 - b. Jesus, the Last Adam pointed to the priority of His life, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that

proceeds from the mouth of God.” vs. 4c-d

- 1) The phrase shall not live “zao” is the indicative future middle voice to express the divine will of God by the individual person to not value bread more than God’s word.
- 2) The word is “rehma”, the spoken word by God and in Luke. Lk. 4:4d
- 3) The priority given to Adam was obedience to the word of God by permitting Adam to eat of every tree freely, but the tree of knowledge of good and evil not so, for the day he did he would surely die. Gen. 2:16-17
- 4) Luke omits the words, “proceeds from the mouth of God”, the origin of authority man’s life is to rely and rest.
- 6) Luke has this as the first temptation.

Illustration

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ “So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my **barns** and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.’ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;

then whose will those things be which you have provided?” “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Lk. 12:16-21

Application

1. The contrasts between the temptation of Adam and Eve and the ones Jesus went through are important.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Jesus was with the wild beasts. Mk. 1:13
* Adam and Eve were in the garden with tame animals.
 - c. Matthew and Luke both tell us that Jesus fasted 40 days and nights. Matt. 4:2; Lk. 4:2
 - 1) Adam and Eve did not.
 - 2) Moses and Elijah fasted for 40 days. Ex. 34:28; 1Kings 19:8
 - d. 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 and more severe for Jesus!
2. The book of Hebrews tells us how Jesus can be our High Priest and the extent of His temptation.
 - a. The question of how Jesus can be our High Priest is answered first, “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) Jesus understands the constant struggle and intense warfare I go through, others do not.
- b. The question of the extent Jesus was tempted is answered second, “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15b
 - 1) In every area, level, way and manner of temptation that man can and will ever be tempted, Jesus was tempted.
 - 2) There is no sin in being tempted, only in giving in to the temptation!
- c. 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
 - 1) Jesus is able to sympathize as our High Priest understands our weaknesses.
 - 2) Jesus is able to help our weaknesses.

The first temptation of Jesus dealt with the body, the lust of the flesh!

II. The temptation of the spirit. vs. 5-7

- * “a tree to desirable to make one wise, to exalt oneself or be as God”, to be presumptuous, the pride of life. Gen. 3:6c
- A. The second temptation of the devil to Jesus was to tempt God. vs. 5
 - 1. The scene again is literal, no vision not mental, “Then the devil took Him up into

the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple.” vs. 5

- a. The devil took the lead and brought Jesus to the holy city. vs. 5a
 - 1) The city is called “holy” because it is the city He chose to be His, Luke says, “Jerusalem”. Lk. 4:9a
 - 2) This second temptation is the third in Luke.
 - 3) Mark omits all three temptations.
- b. The particular location is two-fold. vs. 5b
 - 1) The temple “hieron”, refers to the entire temple area with all its buildings and its courts.
 - 2) The pinnacle “pterugion”, means the wing of the temple, the article indicates a specific place.
 - 3) Some say it is the royal porch on the south wall, still other the east wall along Solomon’s Porch, over the Kidron, a 400 to 600 feet drop.
- 2. The temptation was presented to Jesus, “and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.” vs. 6
 - a. Once again by the same statement, “If You are the Son of God”. vs. 6a-b
 - 1) This again affirms since Jesus was the Son of God, not doubting it, the devil again wanted to draw Jesus out to deal with these temptation by His deity.

- 2) But Jesus did not, He overcame the devil as man, the Last Adam depending on God, unlike the First Adam, yet Jesus was identical to the First Adam, the second man.
- b. The devil was tempting Jesus to tempt God, “throw Yourself down.” vs. 5c
 - 1) Luke adds “from here”. Lk. 4:9e
 - 2) The devil suggested that if He willfully put Himself in danger God would protect and rescue Him, a lie.
 - 3) This all being contrary to the plan of God again, to come through the cross.
3. The basis of the devil’s suggestion is backed up by Scripture. vs. 6d-h
 - a. The devil mimicked Jesus using God’s word as his support, “For it is written.” vs. 6d
 - 1) Jesus repeated it. vs. 4, 7, 10
 - 2) The devil used Scripture out of context to have it say something it does not say.
 - b. The quote is in the Psalms. Ps. 91:11-12
 - 1) The devil quoted the Psalm omitting a few words, “He shall give His angels charge over you, **To keep you in all your ways,**” “and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” vs. 6e-h
 - 2) The Psalm is a promise to every child of God for divine protection, as they

- walk with Him indicated by the words the devil omitted, “to keep you in all your ways”.
- 3) The devil used the Psalm out of context to get Jesus to prove that He trusted God by casting Himself off, which would in fact prove Jesus was tempting God by willfully putting himself at risk and danger.
 - 4) The quote was false, yet Jesus did not correct it. Does that mean it was true? No, all the words of the devil are lies!
- B.** The response of Jesus exposed the devil for what he is, a liar and deceiver. vs. 7
1. Jesus again depends on the word of God against the devil, “Jesus said to him, “It is written again.” vs. 7a-b
 - a. Luke says, “And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said,” Lk. 4:12a-b
 - b. The devil used Scripture in contradiction.
 - c. Jesus used Scripture to interpret Scripture, revealing that God’s word does not contradict itself.
 2. Jesus expose the devil’s intent, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’” vs. 7c
 - a. The quote is from Deuteronomy again for the second time. Deut. 6:16
 - 1) The context is when the people tempted and contended with God to furnish them with water at Massah

- and Meribah, tempting God, “Is the Lord among us or not?” Ex. 17:7
- 2) They should have been depending and trusting in God, but did not in the wilderness, but Jesus was.
- b.** Remember Matthew reverses the order of the second and third temptation from Luke’s order.
- 1) Luke records Jesus victorious after this temptation, which he places third, “Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.” Lk. 4:13
 - 2) Some have said Matthew gives the historical account.
 - 3) While Luke arranges them in a climatic order. Lenski

Illustration

Oral Roberts in 1975 said God was going to take his life if he did not raise 8 million dollars, above ministry expenses, and went to his prayer tower.

Application

1. The first reason Jesus had to be tempted was to demonstrate that the First Adam did not have to fail.
 - * “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
- 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.
 - 3) 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.
2. The second reason Jesus had to be tempted was 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
- a. As Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness, it reveals that we have no excuse for failing.
 - 1) I am not teaching that at some point we can reach “perfectionism” nor “sinlessness”.
 - 2) 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.
 - b. James says we tempts ourself, while God tests us, giving us practical advice. Ja. 1:13-14; 4:7-8
 - 1) The first step, “Submit yourselves therefore to God.”

- 2) The second step, “Resist the devil.”
 - 3) The promise, “and he will flee from you.”
 - 4) The third step, “Draw near to God.”
 - 5) The promise, “and he will draw near to you.”
 - 6) The fourth step, “Cleanse your hearts, you double minded.”
 - a) I do not talk to Satan or myself, you and I are not good company to talk to ourselves!
 - b) We are no match for Satan in our flesh!
 - c) James says, “Blessed is the man who endures testing; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Ja. 1:12
3. The third reason Jesus had to be tempted was to destroy the work of the devil. 1Jn. 3:8
- a. The devil has sinned from the beginning.
 - 1) The entire human race is fallen, due to Satan’s deception of Eve.
 - 2) The entire human race has brought on itself corruption and destruction.
 - b. The devil has sought to entice man to sin from the beginning.
 - 1) Those who reject the gospel, remain deceived and slaves of sin.
 - 2) Those who put their trust in Jesus are freed, no longer being slaves of sin.
4. The fourth reason Jesus had to be tempted was to prove His Messiah ship

- * Jesus said, “The ruler of this world comes and he has nothing in Me”. Jn. 14:30
- a. There was nothing to control Him.
 - b. There was nothing to accuse Him.
 - c. There Jesus faced Satan literally, face to face, not just in His mind or a vision.

The second temptation of Jesus dealt with the spirit, the pride of life!

III. The temptation of the soul, the lust of the eye. vs. 8-11

- * “It was pleasant to the eyes”, to allure, the lust of the eyes. Gen. 3:6b
- A. The third temptation by the devil was the offer to be ruler of the world, apart from the plan of God. vs. 8-9
 1. The scene is literally, not a state of mind with Jesus, “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain.” vs. 8a
 - a. The devil is a real person, not the figment of Jesus imagination.
 - 1) The temptations and fasting for 40 days were real.
 - 2) The first two temptations were real, now the third one, involving the intellect, emotions and will.
 - b. The Greek literally reads, “the devil leading Him up.”
 - 1) The devil is directing or leading.

- 2) Jesus is submitting to the test.
- 3) Luke omits the word “exceedingly” for the high mountain. Lk. 4:8a
- 2. The temptation was presented to Jesus, “and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.” vs. 8b
 - a. How did the devil do this?
 - 1) Luke adds, “in a moment “chrones” of time” actual running time. Lk. 4:5b
 - 2) The literal record must be interpreted literal, the devil had the ability to show all the kingdoms of the world “in their glory” splendor instantly.
 - b. Some say it was mental thoughts Satan put into the mind of Jesus.
 - 1) This is absurd, if the devil could do that, then the devil could equally influence the thoughts of Jesus and deceive Him, nonsense.
 - 2) Lucifer was God’s top cherub.
- 3. The declaration of the devil is false, “And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.” vs. 9
 - a. The liar, “And he said to Him.” vs. 9a
 - 1) Luke says, “the devil”. said to Him.” Lk. 4:6a
 - 2) This temptation is the only one that the devil did not say, “If You are the Son of God”, also in Luke. Lk. 4:6

- 3) Now all the words in Scripture are an accurate record of what was stated, but not all the words recorded are reliable truth according to God.
- 4) A good example are the words of Satan to Eve that she would not die if she ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the words Satan said are accurate, but not true or reliable.
- b. The exaggeration of the devil, “All these things I will give You”. vs. 9b
 - 1) Luke adds, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whoever I wish.” Lk. 4:6b-d
 - 2) The words of the devil in the third temptation of Jesus are false words, lies, not Biblical truth according to God’s revelation of truth.
 - 3) The devil has limited authority by God with boundaries, not all authority, therefore the devil can give to man or a nation some amount authority and glory, but it is limited and temporal.
 - 4) To say the false words of the devil are true because Jesus did not contest them is unbiblical.
 - 5) The devil was implying to Jesus He didn’t have to go to the cross to fulfill the plan of God.

- c. There are some false assumptions about the fall of Adam and the devil.
 - 1) That the fall of Adam forfeited the earth to Satan.
 - 2) But nowhere is this stated by God that He gave the world to Satan as it is commonly taught, it is not true.
 - 3) Yes, Satan now is the ruler and god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, but he is so as a rebel and usurper, not as the rightful owner, in a limited power,
 - 4) Jesus will redeem believer and the earth, the devil's claim to Jesus is false, that Jesus did not dispute it does not make his claim true, as some interpret! Rom. 8:20-23
- 3. The condition to be ruler of the world presented to Jesus by the devil, "if You will fall down and worship me." vs. 9b
 - a. The appeal was to the human nature of Jesus, the Last Adam, just like the First Adam.
 - 1) The word worship "proskuneo", means to prostrate oneself, do obeisance by kneeling or falling on ones face before a superior, in this case as if the devil was God.
* Luke says, "before me". Lk. 4:7a

- 2) The aorist subjunctive indicates one single act, violating the First Commandment.
- b. Luke gives us the false promise of the devil, "all will be Yours." Lk. 7b
 - 1) This is the same offer to Eve, "you shall be as gods". Gen. 3:5
 - 2) The outcome would have been like that of Adam and Eve to become a slave of the devil, not a god.
* "You cannot serve two masters, you will love the one and hate the other!" Matt. 6:24
 - 3) The devil was protecting his limited ruling power, knowing that by Jesus doing it by God's plan, He would dethrone Satan ultimately.
- B. The response of Jesus exposed the devil for what he is, a liar and deceiver. vs. 10-11
 - 1. The appalling suggestion was rebuked by Jesus, "Away with you, Satan!". vs. 10
 - a. Jesus responded by ordering the devil to depart from Him, "Away with you, Satan!" vs. 10b-c
 - 1) These are strong words an imperative command, repulsed by the offer.
* Luke has, "And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan!" Lk. 4:8a-c

- 2) Jesus did not converse with the devil in any of the tree temptations, as Eve, but only resorted to God's word.
- b. Jesus addressed him as Satan "satanas".
 - 1) It means adversary, one who opposes.
 - 2) The devil is the enemy of God and man.
- 2. The appropriate quotation was declared by Jesus stating the Biblical truth about worship, "For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" vs. 10d-f
 - a. Again Jesus used the expression for the Scriptures, "It is written". vs. 10d
 - b. He quoted Deuteronomy regarding idolatry, worship leads to serving, belonging only to God. Duet. 6:13
 - c. Worship "proskuneo", to prostrate oneself in reverant adoration and service "latreuo", to render religious service and homage to be ascribed only to God, the devil is not God nor in any sense a deity!
 - d. Jesus did this as a man, the second man, the Last Adam, not by His deity as God!
- 3. The victorious vindication by Jesus was verified, "Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." vs. 11
 - a. Jesus defeated the devil in all temptations during the forty days and the three major ones, "And the devil left Him." vs. 11a

- 1) Luke say, "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." Lk. 4:12
 - * The devil did not stop opposing and attacking Jesus to keep Him from going to the cross!
- 2) Jesus defeated Satan as the second man, the Last Adam, depending on the Father as man.
- 3) Jesus demonstrated the First Adam did not have to fail, but chose to fail.
- b. Jesus was visited by angels, "and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." vs. 11b-c
 - 1) The word ministered "diakoneo", means to be a servant an attendant.
 - 2) We get our word "deacon" from it, those that serve the people in the church.
 - 3) Angels are spirit beings that serve God and man.

Illustration

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and

became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.” Phil. 2:5-8

Application

1. The objection by some to Jesus having resisted the temptations is that He did it as God, not man!
 - 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.
 - c. The important question of who was tempted.
 - 1) The Son of God or the Son of Man?
 - 2) Jesus had two natures, human and divine, yet without sin!
2. The Son of God speaks of his deity.
 - a. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:31, 32
 - b. He knew no sin, yet was made sin for us. 2Cor. 5:21
 - c. He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. 1Pet. 2:22
 - d. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. Is. 53:5
 - e. In Him was no sin. 1Jn. 3:5
 - 1) God cannot be tempted with evil. Ja. 1:13c
 - 2) “Jesus was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...” Heb. 7:26
3. The Son of Man speaks of His humanity, as man.
 - a. Both Matthew and Luke tell us that the appeal was to the Son of God. Matt. 4:3; Lk. 4:3
 - 1) The repeated phrase, “If You are the Son of God is affirming not doubting!

- 2) Satan was attempting to get Jesus to defeat him as God to void the plan of redemption.
 - 3) For God to resist and defeat Satan is no big deal, He is all-powerful, Satan a cherub.
- 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 Jesus the Last Adam would not fail, revealing a believer does not have to fail.
 - 2) There is no sin in being tempted, only in giving in to the temptation.
 - 3) Some Christians think they are evil if they get bad thoughts, no, you are evil even before the evil thoughts or temptation.
 - 4) 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!
 - 5) “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of **escape**, that you may be able to bear *it*.” 1Cor. 10:13
4. 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.
 - a. 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 Jesus could not have sinned or He could not have been our redeemer.
* He had no sin nature!
- b. Second if Jesus could not have been tempted He would not have been man like the First Adam and certainly not our representative.
 - 1) Both of these seem to be contradictory, irreconcilable truths, both are true!
 - 2) God says He predestinates us and then He tells us to choose to be saved!
- b. Was the temptation true and legitimate?
 - a. The genuineness of a temptation is in the possibility of failure, otherwise if there was no possibility of failure then there could not have been a real temptation for Jesus!
 - b. No one is awarded a prize for first place because there was no possibility for second, third, but because there was that possibility.
 - c. The temptation of Jesus was just like the one to Adam, otherwise it would be not be an equal test at all and God has deceived us, telling us there was a victory when in fact there was no victory there being no real test!
 - d. The Divine nature did not partake in the temptation!
- 5. 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. Jesus was sinless in the innocent state as the First Adam, therefore the testing and suffering Jesus experienced being without sin were greater than any we experience as sinners!
- c. Only when one resists to the end, does one fully know the power of the temptation.
- d. 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

The third temptation of Jesus dealt with the soul, the lust of the eye!

Conclusion

The major temptations of Jesus are three, which fall into the three distinct categories.

- I.** The first temptation of Jesus dealt with the body, the lust of the flesh!
- II.** The second temptation of Jesus dealt with the spirit, the pride of life!
- III.** The third temptation of Jesus dealt with the soul, the lust of the eye!