

The Forgotten Temptation

We know from Scripture that Temptation comes from two places:

1. Our own evil desires...

James 1:13-16 NIV

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

2. The Devil will tempt...

Jesus was tempted by the Devil

Luke 4 NIV

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, **2** where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

The Devil Tempted Jesus to satisfy his own craving...

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. **6** And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. **7** If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

The Devil Tempted Jesus to compromise his devotion to God in exchange for Position and Power...

9 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. **10** For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

11

they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

The Devil Tempted Jesus to Question the Word of God and put God to the Test...

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

- Satan left Jesus until a more opportune time.
- One thing is certain Temptation will come and go but it won't stay gone to long...
- Satan's only job is to try and stop you from doing the very thing God has for you...
- If he can just keep you from the ultimate goal that God has for your life, he has done his job...

Every Temptation Jesus faced was to keep Him from His Ultimate Goal...

Story: Every distance runner can tell you that in a long distance race the body goes through different phases.
There is the obstacle of setting your pace...
There can be muscle fatigue or cramping...
There is weariness...
There can be weather and wind obstacles...
There are mental obstacles that will mess with your thoughts; those thoughts will say you just don't have it today and you might as well quit...

In the same way, every temptation is there to get in the way of your ultimate goal and the plan that God has for your life...

We just finished a Series on "Create a in me a Clean Heart"

In that Series we looked at Psalm 51 where David Repents to the Lord for his sin with Bathsheba...

What David fell into was a trap to mess him up and keep him from the ultimate goal God had for him...

After David Sinned, Nathan the Prophet confronted David and this is how the rest of the story played out...

2 Samuel 12 NIV

13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. **14** But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die."

15 After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill. **16** David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. **17** The elders of his household stood beside him to get

him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. David's attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, "While the child was still living, he wouldn't listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate."

19 David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead.

"Is the child dead?" he asked.

"Yes," they replied, "he is dead."

20 Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, he put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.

- The Lord forgave David, but that didn't erase the consequence of David's actions...

"You can make any choice you want, but you can't choose the consequence." Pastor Steve Cornella

- Satan's only job is to try and stop you from doing the very thing God has for you...

But the Bible says:

Vs. 20

Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.

David got up... cleaned up... and moved on...

- In David's failure he could have quit...

Proverbs 24:16 NIV

for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again,
but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

David got up... cleaned up... and moved on...

Temptation was their to stop David from being the King God anointed him to be...

But David got his heart right with God and got back up again...

Back to our original text:

Luke 4

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left (Jesus) until an opportune time.

The question is, when did the devil tempt Jesus again?

I believe you will find it in Luke 22

Luke 22

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. **40** On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." **41** He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, **42** "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." **43** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. **44** And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Let ask you a question: If Satan was tempting Jesus here, what was he tempting him to do?

*This is what I call: The Forgotten Temptation

Because Jesus was tempted to quit...

42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Jesus was tempted to quit; but are you thankful that he didn't?

You know what a will is?

The word here means: purpose, choice, desire...

Jesus said not my (purpose, choice, desire), but your be done...

Jesus surrendered his immediate desire for what the Father desired...

That must be why it says in

Hebrews 12:2

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Jesus finished...
- He went all the way to the cross...
- He could have called on Legions of Angels...
- He could have stopped everything...
- He could have shown Pilot and the Pharisees all of his Glory and Power...
- But he didn't... He went all the way to the Cross and what did he say at the end? “It is finished”
- He finished for you...

Closing Song:

- Satan's only job is to try and stop you from doing the very thing God has for you...

There is a saying that I believe is so true: "It says, people don't remember how you start, they remember how you finish..."

2 Timothy 4

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Prayer:

- Lord I pray for every person who has been tempted to quit that they will have the courage to stay the course...
- Lord I pray for the person who has stumbled or fallen that they will get back up... "Though a Righteous man falls seven times, he gets back up."
- Lord help us to be like Jesus, who for the joy set before him he endured the Cross...
- Lord I pray for Victory on the other side of Faithfulness...
- Lord I pray for Fruitfulness on the other side of Faithfulness...
- Lord I pray for Breakthrough and Joy on the other side of Faithfulness...