

The Temptations in the Wilderness

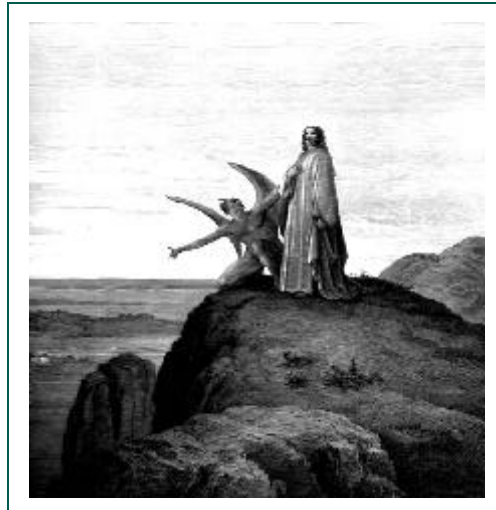
Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

The Story

After Jesus had been baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus was to be tempted by the devil at this time. Jesus fasted for forty days and nights and lived among the wild beasts. During these forty days, Jesus was constantly tempted by Satan. Although there were many other temptations, Scripture only reveals three of them for learning and application.

In one temptation the tempter came to Jesus and said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." Jesus used Scripture saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Deut. 8:3)

A different temptation had the devil taking Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple. Satan deceitfully misquoted Scripture, trying to get Jesus to sin. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge concerning



you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus fought this temptation using the Word of God. He said, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" (Deut. 6:16)

In another temptation, the devil took Him to a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Satan said, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus answered once again from Deuteronomy saying, "Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.'" (Deut. 6:13)

When the devil finished trying to lure the Son of God into sin, he departed from Jesus, waiting for another opportunity to tempt Him. The angels came and took care of Jesus. After these ordeals, Jesus began His public ministry.



Passages To Study

1 Corinthians 10:13 - 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.

Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Hebrews 4:15 - "(Jesus) was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Questions - Answer these questions about the lesson. The Bible reference in () parentheses will help you.

1. Where did the Spirit lead Jesus? Why? (Mt. 4:1) _____
2. How long did Jesus fast? What effect did this have? (2) _____
3. Who came to Him when He was in this condition? (3) _____
4. What did the tempter want Jesus to doubt? (3) _____
5. How long did Satan suggest that Jesus prove who He was? (3) _____
6. What weapon did Jesus use to fight Satan? _____
7. What specific Word of God was Jesus' weapon? (4) _____

8. Where did Satan then take Jesus for another temptation? (5) _____
9. What did Satan tempt Jesus to do here? (6) _____
10. What did Satan use to back up his suggestion? (6) _____
11. What important words did Satan leave out? (check Ps 91:11-12) _____

12. How did Jesus again combat the devil? _____

13. What specific Word of God did Jesus use? (7) _____
14. What did Satan show Jesus from a mountain top? (8) _____
15. What deal did Satan offer Jesus? (9) _____
16. What did Jesus tell Satan to do? (10) _____
17. What weapon did Jesus again use against Satan? _____
18. What did Jesus say? _____
19. What did Satan finally do after this? (11) _____
20. Who came to serve and comfort Jesus? (11) _____

True or False

- _____ 1. It is possible for a Christian to escape all temptations in life.
- _____ 2. If a person has a lot of self-confidence, he can overcome any temptation.
- _____ 3. God's Word and prayer are effective weapons against temptation.
- _____ 4. Repentance is the way of recovery after falling into temptation.
- _____ 5. Temptation involves deciding between God and my own sinful desires.

Discuss

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted by Satan?

2. What does it mean to you that Jesus was able to resist temptation during this, the most vulnerable time of his life?

Crossword Fun

ACROSS

3. What Satan leads us into
5. Satan suggested Jesus turn stones into ____.
6. Went without food

DOWN

1. "The tempter"
2. Where Satan tempted Jesus
3. Satan told Jesus to jump from here
4. Where Satan showed Jesus all kingdoms
6. Number of days and nights Jesus fasted.

[illegible]

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, even as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," so deliver us from temptation and evil. Strengthen our faith and increase our knowledge of Your Word so that we, by Your Grace, may overcome the Devil through Jesus' victory for us. Help us to see and use the escape from temptation that You have promised to provide us. Forgive us where we have fallen. And may we be thankful when You give us each victory. So that when our battles are ended, You will have brought us through this life to share in the Victory that Jesus won for us. We pray, believing in the name of Jesus our Victorious Savior, Amen.