

TEMPTATION

Luke 4:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What tempts you?
 1. Dirty story or joke, or a juicy piece of gossip?
 2. Avoid trouble with “little white lie”?
 3. Pornography?
 4. Follow the crowd, go out drinking or partying where shouldn’t be?
 5. Skip church for something more “fun”?
- B. Temptation confronts all of us
 1. Since Adam and Eve (*Gen. 3*) human race has been subject to temptation
 2. Not even Jesus could escape it (*Luke 4:1-13*)
 - a. He “*was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*” (*Hebrews 4:15*)
 - b. So can learn from him how to deal with temptation
- C. Let us notice three things we learn about temptation from this event

I. SOURCE OF TEMPTATION

- A. *James 1:13-14*
 1. Temptation does not come from God
 2. It comes from our “*own desires*”
 3. What tempts you may not tempt someone else, and *vice versa*
 4. Satan knows which temptation to use with each person
- B. Obviously, Satan does the does the enticing
 1. Satan is real being who knows how to do his job
 2. Knows how to make sin look right (*2 Cor. 11:14*)
 - a. Will even use Scripture if will accomplish his purpose
 - (1) Quoted Old Testament to Jesus vs. 10-11 (*Psalms 91:11-12*)
 - (2) Satan will use enough truth to make it look good
 - (3) Looks good enough to be believed
 - b. Satan knows what weapons to use
 - (1) He appealed to Christ’s hunger when hungry
 - (2) Knows our “*own desires*” and how to use them (*James 1:13*)
 - c. Satan knows when to approach
 - (1) Didn’t appeal to Christ immediately after big meal
 - (2) Approaches when most vulnerable to attack
- C. But always remember that temptation comes from Satan using our own desires and weaknesses against us

1. Careful not to give him that opportunity
2. If certain friend/friends are constantly trying to persuade us to do what is wrong, need to stay away from those friends
3. They may be Satan's way of getting to you

II. NATURE OF TEMPTATION

- A. Satan's weapons effective because he uses them so often—well-practiced
 1. Jesus tempted in all points like as we are (*Hebrews 4:15*)
 2. All sins fit one of three categories (*1 John 2:15-16*)
 3. Satan has no other methods of temptations than these
 - a. He used them with Eve (*Genesis 3*)
 - (1) "*lust of the eye*" = "*pleasant to the eye*"
 - (2) "*lust of the flesh*" = "*good for food*"
 - (3) "*pride of life*" = "*make one wise*"
 - b. Satan always uses these three weapons, just different forms
- B. Satan's specific attacks on Christ
 1. "*turn these stones into bread*" = "*lust of the flesh*" vs. 1-4
 - a. Surely nothing wrong with satisfying hunger—that's why we eat
 - (1) "Why deprive yourself of the physical satisfaction?"
 - (2) Why be hungry when you don't have to be?
 - b. Severe temptation that appealed to fleshly desire when it is strongest
 - c. Why would it have been wrong?
 - (1) Showed lack of trust in God
 - (a) Would God really provide for him?
 - (b) Hadn't for last 40 days
 - (2) Would show unwillingness to suffer as the humans he came to save
 - (a) He would not understand fleshly temptation if could use miraculous powers we don't have to defeat it
 - (b) He would not have been "*tempted in all points like as we are*"
 - (3) Also would have missed the true significance of miracles
 - (a) Miracles were to create faith (*John 20:30-31*)
 - (b) Would not have led Satan to believe
 - d. Notice Jesus' reply vs. 4
 2. "*worship before me and all will be yours*" = "*lust of the eyes*" vs. 5-8
 - a. Nothing sneaky or subtle about this approach
 - (1) It is an out-and-out bribe
 - (2) "*Worship*" means recognize as superior being and submit to him
 - b. May have been the strongest temptation of the three
 - (1) Offered Jesus riches after growing up in poverty—materialism
 - (a) Such is dangerous temptation for most people

- (b) Many would have jumped at this one, not able to handle it
- (c) Many who suddenly become wealthy find themselves ruining their lives because they don't know how to handle the money
- (d) Riches bring serious temptations (*1 Timothy 6:9*)
- (2) But strongest temptation was easy way to the throne
 - (a) Jesus came to be "*king of kings*"
 - (b) Satan offered him easy way to accomplish that
 - (i) No being rejected by the people
 - (ii) No Gethsemane or Calvary
 - (iii) Satan was offering the crown without the cross
 - (iv) He was being offered easy way to the top
- c. Many people, including some Christians, compromise their convictions for material things world offers
- d. Christ's answer vs. 8
- 3. "*Throw yourself down from the Temple*" = "*pride of life*" vs. 9-12
 - a. "If you are the Son of God, prove it"
 - (1) "Nothing to be afraid of, Scriptures promise protection"
 - (2) "Great opportunity to prove who you are to Temple crowd"
 - b. What would have been wrong with this?
 - (1) Truth is, it would only *appeared* to have been an act of faith
 - (a) "Faith" comes from the Word of God (*Romans 10:17*)
 - (b) This was not commanded by God, it would have been an act of self-will
 - (2) Difference between trusting God in time of danger, and deliberately putting yourself in danger
 - (a) Drunk driver cannot honestly pray for safe trip
 - (b) God promises deliverance from temptation (*1 Corinthians 10:13*),- but we should never deliberately expose ourselves to temptation
 - (i) Alcoholics should not go into bars
 - (ii) Avoid places where people don't dress modestly if want to avoid lust
 - (iii) Don't go to dances, and then pray for a pure mind
 - (iv) Stay away from the wrong crowd
 - c. This was actually an appeal to pride
 - (1) "I can do or go..." because I am strong enough to resist
 - (2) Problem is, more we are around sin, less sinful it seems
 - d. Jesus' response vs. 12

III. ANSWER TO TEMPTATION

- A. Jesus struggled with temptations as we do, but he won

1. What he used we can also use
 2. He resisted temptations without using anything miraculous
 3. He had no special advantages we don't have, actually we have one he didn't
- B. How do we overcome temptation?
1. Trust God
 - a. Believe in his promise to help (*1 Corinthians 10:13*)
 - b. Trust God, not yourself
 - (1) Satan cannot overwhelm us when we stay close to God
 - (2) Don't fight temptation alone, run from it (*2 Timothy 2:22*)
 2. Word of God
 - a. First recorded words of Jesus after his baptism "*It is written*"
(*Matt. 3:13-4:4*)
 - b. Word of God best way to handle temptation (*Psalms 119:9, 11*)
 - c. But that means we must study Bible enough to know what it teaches
 - (1) Not just know "Bible says that is wrong"
 - (2) Where and what does the Bible say is wrong about it?
 - (3) Must know Bible well enough that when tempted the Bible's teachings leap to mind
 3. An immediate **"NO!"**
 - a. "*Get behind me Satan*" vs. 8
 - b. Matthew says, "*Away with you, Satan*" (*Matthew 4:10*)
 - c. Want to flirt with temptation and then wonder we yield (*Galatians 6:7-8*)
 - d. Time to beat temptation is when it first shows itself
 - e. "*Resist the Devil and he will flee from you*" (*James 4:7*)
 4. We have the added weapon of Christian brothers and sisters
 - a. Jesus was alone when attacked, and he won
 - b. We might win too, but there is strength in numbers
 - c. Why is it easier to be Christian at camp than school?
 - d. Look for opportunities to be with our spiritual family—strengthen each other
 5. Don't give up when you yield
 - a. God will forgive, and you can begin again
 - b. Even after David's sin with Bathsheba, He was still "*man after God's own heart.*" (*Acts 13:22*)
 - c. No sin so bad that you can't repent, pray for forgiveness, and begin again
 - d. God does not require perfection, but he does require faithfulness

CONCLUSION:

- A. Battle against temptation is constant
 1. Devil departed "*until an opportune time*" vs. 13i

2. We can never let us (*1 Corinthians 10:12-13*)
 - B. But we must never give up if we want to live as Christian should