

Luke 4

Every human is endowed with certain gifts, etc., and must pass through a time of conflict to determine whether or not he will use these for himself or glory God with them.

The Bible calls this TEMPTATION. The word originally meant "To make a search." Satan was searching Jesus to see if there were weak spots. To discover what good or evil is in the life.

The temptation ~~is~~ of Jesus is a preview of our own temptation. To see how Satan tempts and how Jesus conquered it is the purpose of this message.

1. Temptation is a part of the Divine Plan. "Led of the Spirit." Mark says the Spirit drove Him. We think of Temptation as a BAD DOG SLEEPING UNDER A TREE and if we tiptoe by quietly without awaking him, we can get by without temptation. GOD IS GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU ARE TEMPTED! It isn't a sign that God has forsaken you.

2. Temptation often comes after a great Spiritual Experience. The Gospel writers all emphasize the TIME OF THE TEMPTATION. Immediately after His Baptism and the voice from Heaven and the anointing of the Spirit.

Take a nose dive after highest hour. Ill of Elijah on Mt. Carmel, then running from Jezebell and asking God to kill him. Talk about the blahs! If he'd really wanted to die, Jez would've obliged him,

3. Temptation Attacks us at our Strongest Point. --Jesus' power to change stones into bread. That wouldn't have been a temptation for me, because I couldn't do it.

We usually guard our weakest points. Satan attacks us through our gifts, abilities, resources, etc.

4. We're Never Finished with Temptation. Luke 4:13 --The devil departed for a more convenient time.

TEMPTATION IS A COMPLIMENT FROM THE DEVIL. You have something He wants. He considers you a threat.

5. TEMPTATION is to PREPARE US FOR SERVICE. ←

Luke 4:1 cp Luke 4:14 He returned in the POWER and the next vvs describe his powerful ministry.

This passage not only established the fact of Satan's existence but reveals his M.O. Jesus was dragging thr devil into the light so we could all see how he operates.

Satan has only three knocks at the door. Only three things to say to man. Luke says Satan ended ALL THE TEMPTATION -- this means not that Jesus was through tempting Jesus, but that he exhausted every means of approach. The cycle of temptation was completed, he emptied his gun into the Son of god and He was still standing. Satan has never advanced beyond these three things. Many forms but always the same.

*Garden of Eden - 1 John 2:3*

*Lust of the flesh*

*Appetite*

THE FIRST KNOCK: APPEALS TO PHYSICAL APPETITE -- BODY  
Eve in thr garden, Jesus hungry, Paul in Phil., whose god is their belly.

1. There's nothing wrong with making bread. God gave you that appetite, God made you with physical needs and He made available the means for satisfying that appetite.

2. THE TEMPTATION: To use his powers selfishly, for his own interests, to satisfy immediate necessities, disregarding the WILL OF GOD.

*TIME, MONEY, ETC.*

GREAT QUESTION? WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN HOW YOU USE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU? Your Hunger or the WILL OF GOD?

*Spiritual*

*Lust of the Eyes Allegiance*

SECOND KNOCK: APPEALS FAITH IN GOD Quotes Ps1. "Is that really so? Are you sure about that?"

If God leaves a question of life unanswered, He must not really be god. "TEMPTING GOD." Make God PROVE IT!

Satan to Eve, God is withholding something good from you. Satan says the same thing to teenagers about their parents.

A FAITH THAT MUST BE SUPPORTED BY SENSATIONAL DISPLAY ISN'T REAL FAITH.

THIRD KNOCK: APPEALS TO OUR PERSONAL <sup>3</sup> AMBITION.

"The pride of Life..." Satan offered Jesus a way to get what he wanted.

THE TEMPTATION: Compromise

Lower your standards. Satan bribes people. We would serve God if the world was thrown in. We're willing to change Gods if it would get us what we wanted.

DEACON: "Thta's all right for the preacher, but ~~ix~~ it won't work in the world."

ISRAEL SHEEPHERDERS AND BRICKMAKERS. Now you're in Agricultural land. The gods that worked in the old land won't work. Now you must bow to the god of the city.

The god you had in Sunday School as a jr. boy was okay, but now you need the grown-up god.

*Satan didn't ask Jesus to abandon his ministry, just compromise the means.*