

“TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL”, #1

INTRODUCTION

The subject of our lesson at this time is “TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL.” This title comes from a passage in Luke 4:2, which, concerning Jesus, reads, “Being tempted of the devil.” The devil is called “the tempter” in Matthew’s account of the temptation of Jesus, in Matt. 4:3. The account of the temptation is found in Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13. Mark only gives a **summary** of the temptation, while Matthew and Luke give a more detailed account.

Now let’s read the account from the book of Matthew, Matt. 4:1-11. (Read) Now, there are many things we can learn by examining this account,.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we learn that both Jesus and the devil are REAL.

A. What about Jesus?

1. He is revealed by John as the WORD of God, Who was with God eternally, and was involved in the creation of all things. John 1:1-3
2. Jesus was manifested in the flesh (to be tempted) and was crucified AS the “Son of God”, the term Satan used twice IN the temptation. Matt. 4:3, 6
 - a. He became the the “Son” in the conception of Mary when the Spirit overwhelmed her, and caused her to be with the only begotten Son of God. Luke 1:35; John 1:14
 - b. Several times in the New Testament, Jesus is referred to AS “the only begotten Son of God.”

B. Satan is also real.

1. Some think he was once a created angel who was lifted up with pride and was cast out of heaven to become the devil, and man’s enemy.
 - a. There are 2 major scriptures often used to support this idea of his origin: Luke 10:17-20 and Rev. 12:9-11.
 - 1) Luke 10:17-20 actually refers to Satan’s crumbling when the Lord and His disciples began to cast out demons from the demon-possessed in the first century.
 - 2) Rev. 12:9-11 refers to the coming of the kingdom of God and the offer of salvation by the blood of the Lord as the Lamb of God.
 - b. (Read and explain these 2 passages.)
2. Others believe that Satan was a mortal enemy of God, even before the creation, who will eventually be destroyed in the lake of fire at the end of the world.
 - a. if Satan began **when** he “fell from heaven”, **who** or **what** was “evil” so as to cause him to fall in the first place?
 - b. Actually, Satan is the “father” of lies and all sin. John 8:44; 1 John 3:8 (Explain this text thoroughly)
 - c. So, we may not be too certain about Satan’s origin, he **is** God’s enemy.

II. 2nd, we learn that temptation to sin is OF THE DEVIL.

A. Jesus had just been baptized and began preaching the message of the coming kingdom (as recorded in Matthew 3 and 4).

1. The devil is called the “tempter” in Matt. 4:3

2. He tempted the Son of God directly, and tempts “sons of God” today indirectly, through the things that will take us away from God. Jas. 1:14-15
- B. GOD does not tempt us to sin. Jas. 1:13
1. God made us with natural desires, but wants us to satisfy or gratify these desires in the right way.
 2. God made man a free-moral agent, allowing him to **choose** to follow God, or the devil. 1 Cor. 10:13

III. 3Rd, we see the roles of the Spirit and Satan.

- A. The Spirit **led** Jesus into the wilderness to permit Satan to tempt Him, similar to **our** being led by the Spirit today into the wilderness of the world, as we are there tempted. Matt. 4:1; cf Rom. 8:14
- B. The Spirit leads in the right way, and Satan leads us into sin. Cf Matt. 4:3, 5, 8...

IV. 4th, we see the parallel between Jesus’ temptation and our temptation.

- A. Jesus was tempted, AS we are tempted today. Heb. 4:15; Jas. 1:14
1. 1st, there was the yearning for food, to satisfy the needs of His FLESHLY body. Matt. 4:2-3
 - a. Jesus overcame this by quoting scripture, that shows life by the word of God is more important than food for the physical body. Matt. 4:4
 - b,. Today, **real** living is a result of following ALL the word of God.
 2. 2nd, there was the challenge to accomplish something great to bring PRIDE to His life. Matt. 4:5-6
 - a. Jesus overcame this temptation by quoting scripture that says we not tempt the Lord by doing things that challenge God to do things for our on pride. Matt. 4:7
 - b. We today need to forget our pride, and be humble before God.
 3. 3rd, there was the challenge to receive all the kingdoms of the world **if** He would only fall down and worship the devil. Matt. 4:8-9
 - a. Jesus overcame by again quoting the scripture of the Old Testament, that GOD is the only object of true worship. Matt. 4:10; cf John 4:23-24
 - b. THEN, (after the temptations were resisted), the devil left Him “for a season” .Matt. 4:11; Luke 4:13
- B. Today, we are tempted in the same 3 areas: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. 1 John 2:15-17
1. The word “lust” in this passage comes from the Greek word epithumia, which simply means “strong desire.”
 2. Satan appeals to our strong desires to persuade us to satisfy them sinfully.

CONCLUSION

- I. If WE are faced with temptation, we can overcome by the presence of the Word of God in our lives. Jas. 4:7; 1 John 3:9; Luke 8:11
- II. Exhortation.

Don Tarbet