

Temptation

Lesson 4

Jesus Tempted In The Wilderness

Introduction

- Christians must seek to endure temptation through self-control by placing our mind and body under God's control
- Many wrongly conclude and teach that without sinful desire, there is no temptation
- Further, they conclude that unless our desires are acted on, they are not sinful
- They further claim that Jesus was subject to all sinful desires because He was tempted in all points as we are

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Introduction

- If guilty of sinful desires, Jesus is just like Greek idols
- Focus on Jesus' wilderness temptations although He endured many more
- Jesus shows power over Satan not submitting to his will in any way
- Jesus also sets the perfect example for us resisting Satan and submitting to God's will

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Jesus Tempted In The Wilderness

Key to Jesus enduring Satan's temptations
Jesus resists Satan's wilderness temptations
What Jesus enduring temptations means to us

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Key To Jesus Enduring Satan's Temptations

Joh 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Joh 4:34 Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

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Two Points About Jesus' Wilderness Temptations

- 1 – Jesus resisted the Devil with Scriptures from Deuteronomy chapters 8 and 6
- Moses farewell sermons preparing Israel to enter promised land after 40 years of testing in wilderness
- Jesus, after being baptized, tempted 40 days in wilderness, before beginning his ministry

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Two Points About Jesus' Wilderness Temptations

2 – He was learning obedience by the things which He suffered

Heb 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Heb 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

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Temptation 1 – Turn Stones Into Bread

Mat 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Mat 4:2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

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Temptation 1 – Turn Stones Into Bread

Mat 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

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Temptation 1 – Turn Stones Into Bread

- Jesus quotes Deut. 8:3 to resist Satan's temptation
- Although hungry, Jesus never expressed sinful desires for food
- Jesus had the power to change the stones to bread but did not use His power selfishly

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Temptation 1 – Turn Stones Into Bread

- Jesus refuses Satan's challenge to Him to misuse His power to escape the pain of hunger, human weakness
- If He cheated hunger maybe He would cheat pain of scourging or the cross

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Deuteronomy 8:3-6

Deu 8:3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

Deu 8:4 "Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

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Deuteronomy 8:3-6

Deu 8:5 "Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

Deu 8:6 "Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

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Temptation 2 – Throw Yourself Off Pinnacle of Temple

Mat 4:5 Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

Mat 4:6 and *said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

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Temptation 2 – Throw Yourself Off Pinnacle of Temple

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"

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Temptation 2 – Throw Yourself Off Pinnacle of Temple

- Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12 out of context showing anyone can pervert meaning of Scriptures
- Throw yourself down because God will protect you
- No pride of life here because no lustful desires within Jesus

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Temptation 2 – Throw Yourself Off Pinnacle of Temple

- Jesus knew that throwing Himself off Temple would be a tempting or testing of God
- He quotes Deut. 6:16 to resist Satan
- Satan wants Jesus to prove the Father is with Him
- Jesus trusts that the Father is with Him and does not test Him

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Deuteronomy 6:16

Deu 6:16 "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.

Exo 17:7 He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"

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Psalm 91 Trusting In God

Psa 91:11 For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.

Psa 91:12 They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

Psa 91:2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

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Temptation 3 – Worldly Kingdoms For Worshipping Satan Once

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;

Mat 4:9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

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Temptation 3 – Worldly Kingdoms For Worshipping Satan Once

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'

Mat 4:11 Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

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Temptation 3 – Worldly Kingdoms For Worshipping Satan Once

- Satan had some power to give Jesus to some degree world kingdoms with all their glory
- But the Father would give Him all the nations after His death, resurrection and ascension – doing the Father's will

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Psalm 2:6-8

Psa 2:6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

Psa 2:7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Psa 2:8 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.

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Temptation 3 – Worldly Kingdoms For Worshipping Satan Once

- Satan said you can have nations now without going to the cross
- Just worship me once and you can have the spoils without the battle
- No shortcuts to glory for Jesus
- Jesus quotes Deut. 6:13 and says He will only worship God, no one else worthy of worship

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Deuteronomy 6:13

Deu 6:13 "You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

Joh 12:27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

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What Jesus Enduring Temptations Means To Us

- Through His perfect obedience, He became an obedient Son, perfect sacrifice for our sins and sympathetic heavenly high priest to intercede for us to the Father
- We can be encouraged to follow His example hiding the Word in our hearts to the point that we more consistently resist temptation and do the Lord's will

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Jesus Victorious Over Temptation

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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Jesus Victorious Over Temptation

Heb 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

Mat 5:28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

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Jesus Our Perfect Example Resisting Temptation

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1Pe 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

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Jesus Our Perfect Example Resisting Temptation

1Pe 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Heb 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

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Jesus Tempted In The Wilderness

Key to Jesus enduring Satan's temptations

Jesus resists Satan's wilderness
temptations

What Jesus enduring temptations means to
us