

THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

Text: Luke 4:1-13

INTRO: The Bible tells us that Jesus was "in all points tempted as we are" (Heb 4:15), yet did not sin. John tells us in 1 JN 2:16 that the avenues of temptation are (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes and (3) the pride of life. These are the temptations the serpent put before Eve in the garden of Eden--hunger, beauty, pride. The devil put these same temptations before Jesus. Unlike Eve, Jesus set the example of overcoming temptation in all its forms.

I. THE LUST OF THE FLESH--NATURAL DESIRE, vs 1-4.

- A. Satan picked the best time to tempt--when Jesus was very hungry.
- B. Hunger & thirst are among the strongest appetites of men. Under craving of food, men often begin to behave like animals. 2 Kings 6:28-29.
- C. "If you are the Son of God..." After all, a man has to live. "Not by bread alone" (Deut. 8:3).

II. THE LUST OF THE EYES--BEAUTY, DESIRABILITY, vs 5-8.

The devil is most successful when he makes sin look good.
Special stimulation of natural desires.

- A. All the kingdoms of the world.
 - 1. Some say he did not have the power to deliver.
 - 2. But if he didn't it wouldn't have been a temptation.
 - a. god of this world, 2 Cor. 4:4
 - b. prince of the power of the air, Eph 2:2
- B. This is the temptation of materialism with which Satan is so successful in tempting men today.
- C. It was here that Satan tried to get Jesus to compromise. Don't lower your goal, just don't be so concerned with how you achieve it.

III. PRIDE--THE TEMPTATION TO "BE SOMEBODY," vs 9-12.

- A. We see that Satan does not give up easily.

- B. The temple pinnacle stood 600 feet above the valley of Jehoshaphat.
- C. Satan can tempt anywhere--even in the place of worship.
- D. Satan often quotes Scripture, 2 Pet 3:16; 2 Tim 2:15
- E. This temptation was one of pride--make a show--draw attention to yourself. Psa. 91:11-12
- F. Must not tempt God. No use asking God to deliver us when we leave His appointed way & seek to have our own way. Deut. 6:16.

IV. VICTORY OVER SATAN--BUT HE'LL BE BACK, vs 13.

CONCLUSION: "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." (1 Cor 10:13).

Springhill, LA, December 30, 1973

La Porte, TX, March 7, 1976

La Porte, TX, July 17, 1983

Exton, PA, October 27, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 6, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 17, 1997