



Lesson 171

The Temptation of Jesus

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Matthew 4:1-11; Parallel Passages: Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13• Setting: circa 26 AD in the Judaeen wilderness• Characters: God the Father, Jesus, and Satan• Plot: Before Christ begins his public ministry | <p>he is tempted in the wilderness for forty days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s): "it is _____"• Climax: <i>Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.</i> |
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Our Champion Prepares for Battle

1. (Matt. 4:1-2) After Christ's baptism and before commencing his public ministry, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he would spend forty days in prayer and fasting. What other Bible characters spent many days in prayer and fasting in the wilderness? _____
2. The Holy Spirit is described as leading Christ into the wilderness to be tempted (Matt. 4:1; Luke 4:1) and Mark gives a stronger description of the Spirit's part, saying that he "driveth him into the wilderness." (Mark 1:12). Some may wonder why the Spirit would lead the Son to be tempted. In short, someone needed to beat the Devil at his own game, and Jesus was the only one capable. Matthew Henry explains, "Christ was led to be tempted of the Devil, and of him only. Others are tempted, when they are drawn aside of their _____ and enticed (Jam. 1:14); the Devil takes hold of that handle, and ploughs with that heifer; but our Lord Jesus had no corrupt nature, and therefore he was led securely, without any fear or trembling, as a champion into the field, to be tempted purely by the Devil."¹

The Devil's Playbook

3. Satan's ploys are simple and effective:
 - (a) He casts doubt on God's _____. He said to Jesus twice, "**If** you are the Son of God..." Previously at Christ's baptism the Father had audibly thundered the proclamation of Jesus as his Son (Matt. 3:17). He did the very same thing to Eve in the Garden saying, "Yea, hath God said...?" (Gen. 3:1)
 - (b) Satan then attacks his target along three fronts:
 - i. (Matt. 4:2-3) **The lust of the flesh** - Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. We may wonder how such a thing could be sinful. Jesus shows us in his answer: he quotes from Deuteronomy 8 and points us to the story of the children of Israel in the wilderness.
 - A. The children of Israel were humbled in the wilderness...they were brought to suffering so that they would learn that what man needs is not material satisfaction, but _____.
 - B. The children of Israel needed to learn what the Savior said of himself, "My _____ is to do the will of my Father."

¹ Matthew Henry, [Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1622.

- C. Essentially, the devil was trying to appeal to the Savior's bodily appetites to distrust God's _____ for him – to place serving his own flesh before trusting the Father.
- D. (Matt. 4:8-9) **The lust of the eyes** – Jesus was tempted to worship Satan in exchange for all the kingdoms of the world. Satan is the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) and the “prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He is the world's ruler in the sense that, in its sinfulness, the world is subject to Satan's power.
- E. The sin of the lust of the eyes is the desire to want more and more. It is never being satisfied. Behind this sinful desire (materialism, consumerism, etc.) is a lack of being _____ in God. It is the result of not finding in God all that he claims to be for us.
- F. Conversely, we are commanded to “walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor. 5:7)
- ii. (Matt. 4:5-6) **The pride of life** – This sin is arrogant presumption and a spirit of entitlement. It assumes God owes us something and demands that God prove his love. The Savior quoted from Exo. 12:2-7, where the Hebrews demand that Moses give them water where none was available. There, the children of Israel tempted God. Tempting God is testing God - it is trying to put God in a position where he must do as we think he should, not as he _____ he would.

Faith is the Victory

- 4. Each time the Savior was tempted he responded by quoting Scripture -this is the key to our victory over temptation. When we trust God's _____ we exercise faith, and with faith we can overcome the wiles of Satan.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “written” • 1. Moses (Deut. 9:9) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8) • 2. own lust • 3. a) Word; b) i) A) God; B) meat; C) care; ii) A) satisfied; iii) promised • 4. Word

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.