

The Temptations of Christ
“Turning Stones to Bread”
Sunday, October 25, 2020

- * We can see many parallels between the temptations of Jesus and the “original temptation” in the Garden of Eden!
- * The first plunged Man into sin and the second exposed satan and started the process of redemption!
- * In Genesis Adam and Eve lived in a lush garden where everything they needed or wanted was provided and in the wilderness Jesus went without for all of us!
- * In Genesis the temptation was “to be like God” by disobeying Him and in the wilderness the temptation of Jesus was to be King without obeying God!
- * In Genesis, after they sinned, the angel barred them from the Tree of Life and in the wilderness after the temptation the angels came and ministered to Jesus!
- * There are three (3) distinct elements in the Temptation of Christ that we want to see and learn from! Remember, our Lord was tempted in all ways like we are...yet without sin!

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

(TPT)

15 He understands humanity, for as a Man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin.

(The Voice)

15 For Jesus is not some high priest who has no sympathy for our

weaknesses and flaws. He has already been tested in every way that we are tested; but He emerged victorious, without failing God.

I. We must never forget that Jesus was “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness to be tempted!

A. This seems to indicate that the plan of God was for Jesus to begin His redemption process and His earthly ministry by fully identifying with “Fallen Man”! He is called throughout scripture the “Second Adam!”

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NLT)

45 The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. 46 What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. 47 Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. 48 Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. 49 Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like[b] the heavenly man.

B. Redemption is when our identification with Adam is replaced by our identification with Christ!

II. The first temptation of Christ takes place when Jesus is at His weakest and hungry!

Matthew 4:1-3 (NLT)

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil[a] came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

- A. The principles of Greek grammar make this temptation even more powerful!
 - 1. It is because of the word “IF!”
 - 2. It is what is called a “conditional sentence!”
 - 3. It is like Martha saying, “Jesus, IF you were here, Lazarus would not have died!”
 - 4. This IS NOT is used in this passage! As if the devil were questioning Jesus!
 - 5. It is more accurately stated, “Since YOU ARE the Son of God, command these stones to become bread!”
 - 6. Satan was saying, “Hey, you are divine, why should you go hungry?”
- B. Ask yourself this, “What was so wrong with Jesus making Himself a meal?”
 - 1. He later multiplied “loaves and fish” to feed the multitude!
 - 2. What’s really going on here?

III. The devil wanted to ruin MISSION OF CHRIST!

- A. The devil was trying to get Jesus to abandon His “spiritual work” and turn to the “natural work” to accomplish what He knew had to take place!
 - 1. Again, what was so wrong with Jesus eating?

2. What is so wrong with nourishment?
3. Nothing at all! The point was the WAY in which the devil was tempting Jesus!

B. Jesus was announcing to satan and to all of us that:

The spiritual answer has the power to bring permanence to the issues of life not just temporal change !!!

1 Corinthians 15:45 (ICB)

45 It is written in the Scriptures: "The first man became a living person." But the last Adam became a spirit that gives life.

C. What satan was "tempting" Jesus to do is get His eyes off of the "permanent" fix and settle for a temporary solution! (...a spirit that gives life!)

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

1. At times we look at Jesus and even the disciples and think...they seem to not care what is happening around them!
2. That's not the case at all...they were looking passed the circumstances and seeing the REAL issues and were offering permanent answers!
3. So it should be with us in our dealings in life and current affairs!

Colossians 3:1-4 (TPT)

1 Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to

yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! 2 Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. 3 Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ. 4 And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

4. Are you saying to not care?

5. Not at all! The key is the word "YEARN" or as some translations say, "SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON!"

D. In other words, "What really works you up?"

1. What gets your emotions boiling?

2. What are most of your facebook posts about?

E. Jesus was actually quoting from Deuteronomy when satan tempted Him!

Deuteronomy 8:3 (NLT)

3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

1. God tested them in the desert so they would learn that they must obey what comes out of the mouth of God!

2. He gave them manna but to acquire it and be nourished by it they had to follow God's instructions!

3. Jesus overcame satan's temptation by knowing and living out scripture!
4. Do not be tempted to settle for temporary reprieve while God is offering permanent spiritual change!