

The Temptation of Christ
“Throw Yourself Down from the Temple”
Sunday, November 1, 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)

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

(TPT)

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)

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 the heavenly man.

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

- II. The first temptation, “turn the stones to bread”, was in the physical area of life!!! Hunger, provision and sustaining life!

- A. The “second temptation” is one of “spiritual significance!”

Matthew 4:5-7 (NLT)

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands

so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. 7 Jesus responded,

"The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

1. When looking closely at this temptation it almost seems that it is in response to Jesus' response to the previous temptation!
2. Satan seems to be saying, "Okay, yes we have both determined that You are the Son of God! So, why not start flexing Your spiritual and positional muscles and show us all Who You are?"
3. "Let's get this thing over with," says satan!
4. Again, stressing the temporary fix to an eternal problem of "fallen nature of man!"

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)

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.

- B. What we must realize about the story is that Jesus was standing at the "top of the Temple" in full view of everybody!
 1. Wouldn't that have been a show? Wouldn't that have set His ministry off great? Why not?
 2. Satan even quotes Psalm 91 in the process! This is a scriptural promise...is it not?

Psalm 91:11-12 (NLT)

For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.

They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.

3. Is this true? If so, then what is the deal?
4. Don't fuss at the devil, Christians misuse scripture all the time!!! Mostly to get our way, much like Satan!
5. This is especially true in our politically charged environment!

C. Jesus' response is with scripture as well!

Deuteronomy 6:16 (NLT)

You must not test the Lord your God as you did when you complained at Massah.

1. The revealing truth about Jesus' response with this particular scripture is its context!

Deuteronomy 6:10-17 (NLT)

10 "The Lord your God will soon bring you into the land he swore to give you when he made a vow to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build.
11 The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten your fill in this land,
12 be careful not to forget the Lord, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.
13 You must fear the Lord your God and serve him. When you take an oath, you must use only his name.
14 "You must not worship any of the gods of neighboring nations,
15 for the Lord your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God. His anger will flare up against you, and he will wipe you from the face of the earth.
16 You must not test the Lord your God as you did when you complained at Massah.
17 You must diligently obey the com-

mands of the Lord your God—all the laws and decrees he has given you.

2. When read in context of Jesus' response, the Lord, in both Deuteronomy and Jesus' response to satan, seems to imply, "Okay guys, hold on tight! We are going somewhere here! It's gonna be quite a ride at times but the journey will be worth it! I've got you covered in the meantime!"

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)

16 So no wonder we don't give up. For even though our outer person gradually wears out, our inner being is renewed every single day.

17 We view our slight, short-lived troubles in the light of eternity. We see our difficulties as the substance that produces for us an eternal, weighty glory far beyond all comparison, 18 because we don't focus our attention on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but the unseen realm is eternal.

3. In very simplistic essence Jesus is saying to us through His temptation and victory of satan in it that we are not to be "short sighted" in our thoughts and actions in life!
4. Question: Do we have confident trust in The Father to change situations by changing the lives involved in the situations?