

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the temptation of Jesus and the lessons we can learn from this example of Jesus.

2. The Story of Jesus -
 - a. Birth -
 - b. Infancy - had to flee to Egypt
 - c. Boyhood - Luke 2:40-52
 - i. He grew and developed - v.40
 - ii. Age 12 - separated from parents
 - iii. Was subject to them - v. 51
 - iv. Increased in all ways
 - d. Baptism - Matt. 3:13-17
 - i. Jesus walked 80 miles from Galilee to Jordan
 - ii. Baptized to fulfill all righteousness
 - iii. Following this God confessed Him as His son.
 - iv. The beginning of His public ministry.

3. The next event in the life of Jesus was his temptation
 - a. Matt. 4:1-11 Mark 1:12-13 Luke 4:1-13 Records
 - b. Heb. 2:18 "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."
 - c. Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
 - d. Temptation = an enticement to sin, to solicit to sin, to try, to endeavor to persuade, to incite, to lead into evil

4. Offense and Defense -
 - a. Satan Tries
 - b. Jesus Resists

Discussion

I. HOW SATAN TEMPTED CHRIST 2 Cor 2:11 Devices of Satan - SchemeA. Appealed to his supposed weakness

1. Jesus was hungry after fasting for 40 days -
2. "Command that these stones be made bread" - Jesus wanted and needed bread. This was a severe temptation.
3. Satan attacks us today in our weak places and in our weakest moments. --- when we are sick, afraid, weak, weary, depressed, discouraged¹
 - a. He probes and hunts for our weaknesses
 - b. He finds that besetting sin and he tempts us there!
 - (1) Besetting = constantly present, or attacking
 - (2) Those temptations that constantly nag at us
 - c. Heb. 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"
 - d. BESET = NIV - "...sin that so easily entangles..." RSV -- "...sin which clings so closely..."

B. Endeavors to plant doubt and suspicion in His mind

1. "If thou be the Son of God..." - this raises a doubt, prove that you are the son of God by doing what I suggest: "Stones" & "Jump" - prove it
2. If Satan could persuade Christ to doubt, even momentarily, that He was divine, he would win the victory over Him.
3. Satan tempts us today by trying to raise doubts in our mind
 - a. By making us doubt that we are Christians
 - b. By making us doubt the goodness and mercy of God
 - c. By making us doubt the reality of Providence.
 - d. Gal. 6:9

C. Appearing as a helper

1. Satan offered Christ bread when He was hungry; protection from danger; and power over the whole world.
2. 2 Cor 11:14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."
 - a. Satan pretends to be an angel of light to men, seeking their good.

- b. He generally comes in the garb of righteousness pretending to seek the good of those he would ruin.²
 - c. When Satan appeared to Eve he made her think that she would be wise if she would disobey God.
3. Satan tempts us today by appearing to be our helper.
- a. Sin looks good - it promises happiness.
 - b. Pleasures are short lived - wages are high
 - c. Heb. 11:25 - pleasures of sin for a season
 - d. Rom. 6:23

D. Persistency

1. The first - Distrust in God - under confidence in God.
2. The second - over - trust in God. Over-confidence in God.
3. The third - abandonment of God - in league with Satan.
4. Satan keeps on trying to get us into sin !

E. Quoting Scripture

1. Satan knew and quoted scripture - Mt. 4:6 Ps.91:11-12
 - a. MATT 4:6 "And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."
 - b. PS 91:11-12 "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."
2. Satan misapplied this scripture
3. Satan tempts us today through false teachers who misquote and misapply scripture. Gal. 1:7
4. 1 Jn. 4:1

II. HOW CHRIST MET AND CONQUERED TEMPTATION

A. ANSWERED SATAN BY QUOTING THE WORD OF GOD

1. "It is written" Mt.4:4,7,10 Lk.4:4,8,12
2. Christ routed Satan with the Word of God. The devil hates and fears nothing so much as the Word of God. Jesus used the scriptures every single time!!
3. We today can answer Satan's attacks by quoting the Word of God.
 - a. We should have scripture in our hearts to keep us from sin
 - b. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
 - c. "When a man resists sin on human motives only, he will not hold out long." - Daniel Wilson
 - d. When we are tempted we can use the scriptures!
 - e. Every problem or sin that a person will face can be combated with scriptures from the Bible.
 - f. We could memorize the scriptures that deal with a topic with which we have a problem. Then when we are confronted with that temptation we are ready with the weapons to fight it, the scriptures.
 - g. This can be done with any temptation, and if done sincerely it will help us to overcome that temptation!!!

B. HE RESISTED SATAN

1. "Get thee hence, Satan..." Mt.4:10 - be gone, get out of my sight!
2. Christ refused to consider, much less yield to temptation
3. We today must resist the Devil
 - a. Jas. 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - b. I Pet. 5:8-9
 - c. We must really desire to overcome sin or we will not be able to overcome.
 - d. "To pray against temptations, and then to rush into them, is like placing your hand into a stove and then pray that it might not get burned."
 - e. Rom. 13:14 "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
 - (1) When we are aware of the temptation and continue in them then we are making provision for the flesh.

(2) One day a young boy was given definite instructions by his mother not to go in swimming in the nearby pond. Shortly afterward, he was walking by the pond on his way to school. He took along his swimming trunks, "just in case he got tempted." This was making provision for the flesh.

f. Prov. 1:10 "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

g. 1 Cor 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." See NKJV

(1) We don't have to sin.

(2) God always makes a way of escape from our temptations

(3) Temptation is not an overpowering urge that we cannot resist. We can resist if we choose to do so. We must have a genuine desire to resist and overcome sin.

(4) "When I pass a watermelon patch, I can't keep my mouth from watering, but I can run."

C. HE PUT SATAN TO FLIGHT

1. "Then the devil leaveth him.." Mt. 4:11

2. He left Christ, however, only 'for a season'.

3. When we resist temptation, Satan will leave us - Jas.4:7

4. However, Satan will leave us only "for a season".

D. When Victorious, Christ was comforted by angels

1. Angels came and ministered unto him - Mt.4:11 Lk.22:43

2. When we resist temptation, we shall be comforted and strengthened.

3. Christ is our example in overcoming temptation - Heb. 2:18 4:15

4. Let us, as Christ, overcome temptation - Jas. 1:12-15 1 Cor. 10:13 2 Pet 2:9

5. JAS 1:12-15 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

Conclusion

1. Temptation is no respecter of persons;
 - a. Young people are tempted - Joseph - Gen. 39
 - b. Strong people are tempted - Sampson - Judges 14-16
 - c. Important people are tempted - David - 2 Sam. 11
 - d. Common people are tempted - Achan - Joshua 7
 - e. Christ was tempted - Mt. 4:1-11

2. We learn from His example what we can do to handle temptation
 - a. Information - "It is written" Know the Bible
 - b. Determination - "Get thee Hence Satan" - Determine that you will resist the Devil
 - c. Dedication - "Him only shalt thou serve" - Plan to serve God and not the Devil!!!

3. No degree of temptation justifies any degree of sin!

1 . See Class Notes on Matthew

2 . Gospel Advocate Commentary - Lipscomb & Shepherd - 2 Cor. p.144

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Nov. 5, 2006 - Sunday Evening
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com