

IN THE WILDERNESS | Victory Over Temptation

Introduction:

Text: Luke 4:1–15

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1. Few years ago we received some Money Orders in the Mailbox of about \$1,000
2. No idea who they were from or how fake Money Orders would benefit scammers
3. So Emily and I went to the Post Office to ask... they explained how it worked...
4. Scammers can't cash these themselves—so they want you to cash them...
5. To use your Lawful Bank account to cash their unlawful fake M.O.
6. If anyone is caught—it's you—But They Want Their \$—just one scam of many!

I. PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES FOR OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

1. TEMPTATION IS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN EXPERIENCE

1. If Jesus Hadn't Been Tempted Then He Wouldn't Really Have Been Human

- a) It is Because Jesus Became Human That He Was Tempted as We Are
- b) And Since Jesus was Tempted, then No One is Exempt (Heb. 4:15)

2. So Temptation is a Universal Human Experience (1 Cor 10:13)

- a) As long as we are in a human body we will face temptation
- b) I used to think people reached an age where temptation no longer existed
- c) But That's Not True—the Temptations May Change but they still exist

2. THE TIMING OF TEMPTATION CAN INCREASE IT'S IMPACT (4:3-4)

Notice the Timing of This Temptation...

1. FIRST: Right After Jesus is Baptized...

From when God says: "This is my beloved Son..."

Now Satan says: "IF you are the son of God..."

2. SECOND: It is right after Jesus has fasted for 40 days...

- a) No coincidence the first temptation involves the suggestion of food after fasting

3. THIRD: This Temptation is also targeted when Jesus is alone...

Some Temptations are more effective when a person is alone, and isolated...

—no one is looking... no one would know...

• The Timing of a Particular Temptation Can Increase It's Impact... (4:13)

There was a man who went on a business trip to finalize a huge business deal
He'd Been a Heavy Drinker but through sheer will-power he had stopped drinking
But the Deal Fell Through and He was Flying Back Home and While He was in the
Airport he heard the sound of talking and clinking of ice in a glass
He Was Alone... Discouraged... and the Sound he knew so well Drew Him In
But in the Tension of Temptation He Realized—He Didn't Want a Drink He Wanted
the Company, the Camaraderie, the Belonging of the Bar
That Man Founded A.A. – Alcoholics Anonymous,
to bring people together to celebrate Sobriety instead of Addiction

3. TEMPTATION TARGETS PROPER HUMAN NEEDS WITH IMPROPER MORAL COMPROMISE (4:3-4)

- 1. Hunger is a legitimate, Genuine Human Need... Nothing Wrong with Bread**
 - a) Jesus is the Son of God and He Had the Power to Turn Stones into Bread...
 - b) And It's so small... just a small miracle... for a legitimate need... what's wrong?
- 2. Compromise Always Starts Small... But Even a small moral compromise is still a moral compromise...**
 - a) Just A small Compromise of Integrity—
- 3. For Jesus to Use His Power to Serve Himself—Rather than Trusting God**
 - a) Serving Self Rather than God always Starts Small... but it get's easier in Time
 - b) If I Only Have to Answer to Myself—then I'm Always Fine...
 - c) A Person Makes a Commitment to be True to Christ...
but in Time they begin to think, I Need to be "True to Myself."
 - d) Therefore INTEGRITY is Not Being True to Christ—but True to SELF
 - e) And When Things Eventually Go Wrong—Instead of Trusting God we Blame God
 - f) This is God's Fault—Not Mine!

4. TEMPTATION OFFERS US THE WORLD BUT LEAVES US EMPTY (4:5-8)

- 1. Satan Tempted Jesus By Showing Him the All the Kingdoms of the World and all their Glory...**
 - a) And Promising Him All These Will Be Yours...
 - b) IF You Bow Down and Worship Me.
- 2. I Think of This Now as a Hostage Situation...**
 - a) The World is Lost and Held Captive By Satan, Sin and Death...
 - b) So Satan's Claim Over the World is True as an Hostage Taker Who is Offering a Deal to Release His Hostages — But it is a Lie
- 3. Every Temptation Has 3 Components: The Tempter, the Bait, and the Lie**
 - a) But Jesus Knows the Tempter's Tactics—This is a Lie from the father of lies
 - b) Satan is Offering Jesus a Crown without the Cross...
 - c) But There is only One Way to Release the Captives—By Jesus Going to the Cross
- 4. Even Today Temptation Promises Us the World but Leaves us Empty**
 - a) What Would it Profit a Man if He Gains the Whole World but loses his only soul?
 - b) (Proverbs 20:17) Bread gained by deceit *is* sweet to a man, But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

5. TRUTH CAN BE TWISTED IN ORDER TO TEMPT US (v.9–13)

- 1. How Interesting that Satan quotes scripture!**
—But Not to Honor God... But to Manipulate Man
 - a) Like he quoted God's word in the garden... to deceive Adam and Eve
- 2. But the enemy twisted the truth subtly in order to deceive**

What is RIGHT is What Serves MY NEEDS—What is WRONG is What Doesn't Serve MY NEEDS

3. People Will Twist the Truth For Their Own Selfish Agenda... and God's Word is often Twisted in a way that can tempt us...

EX: A Buddhist Monk Quoting Psalms 46:10 "Be still and know that I Am God"

Buddhists are a Pantheists—They believe Everything is God and God is everything.

So he Twisted God's Word to Declare he is God!

This is the False Doctrine of NEW AGE religion.

That Deep Down, after Multiple Reincarnations, You Forgot Who You Really Are.

Therefore You must Learn Enlightenment through Teachers, Meditations, Disciplines, to Discover Who You Really Are, that you are god.

BUT the Great Big of Enlightenment — is a Big Lie.

Because Being a Deity Has Big Responsibilities.

If You Aren't Successful it's your own fault. If something bad happens it's your own fault. if you have an accident, or get sick, or get cancer, or face death, You have to fix that because your god, your supposed to be running the world and the universe.

4. Temptation Distorts Proper Perspective While Wisdom from Above Provides Proper Perspective...

- a) You are not God – but you are created in the Image of God and you are precious to God and loved by God. God has created an eternal dwelling place for you! But You Must Accept the Truth About God and His Holy Righteousness.

6. TEMPTATION IS PERSONAL (v.9–13)

1. These temptations are targeting Jesus personally...

- a) "If you are the Son of God..." Prove Yourself... Prove to Everyone Who You Are
- b) Prove Yourself in Some Sensational, Extravagant Way
- c) There Were False Messiah's Who Claimed to Have Power They Didn't Have—But Jesus Had All the Power to Do This and More!
- d) The Power to Turn Stones into Bread... the Power to Call Down 12 Legions of Angels... the Power to Show His Glory Over Jerusalem.

2. But Temptation is Personal — so it would be Different for Different People

- a) Satan Targeted Job Personally... through SUFFERING
- b) Satan targeted Peter personally... through FEAR
- c) Satan Targeted Judas personally... through MONEY

3. Temptation is Personal because it is from within us (James 1:14)

- a) We Are All Different with our Own Temptations, Desires, Weaknesses
- b) If It's Not Lust of the Flesh, Then Pride, or Covetousness, or Jealousy, Envy, Anger
- c) Jesus said it was from Within the heart of man (Mk 7:20-23)
 - One Man says: I Would NEVER do that... Maybe So,
but they might Fall to PRIDE because Pride Goes Before the Fall!
 - A Woman Says: I Would Never LUST... Maybe So...
but Her Lust is to Gossip about Others to Feel Good About Herself!

7. TEMPTATION CAN BE OVERCOME BY THE WORD OF GOD

- 1. Jesus Shows Us How We Can Have Victory Over Temptation**
 - a) Because the Word of God Exposes the Lies of the Enemy and of the World
- 2. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God—**
 - a) But We Need to Keep Our Sword Sharp—
 - b) Don't Let Your Sword Lay Around and Get Rusty!
 - c) Because Temptation Returns As Soon as We Let Our Guard Down **(4:13)**
- 3. Jesus overcame Temptation by Trusting the Truth—the Word of God**
 - a) He Did Not Turn Stones Into Bread... BUT...
 - b) He Turned 5 Loaves and Two Fishes into Enough Food to Feed Over 5,000 people
 - c) and They Tried to Take Jesus by Force and Make Him to Be King!

8. JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS AS WE ARE—BUT WITHOUT SIN **(Hebrews 4:15–16)**

- 1. The Enemy Tempted Jesus to use His Supernatural power for Himself**
- 2. Jesus never used His power to serve Himself... Not Even on Cross**
- 3. Jesus Was Tempted in ALL Points as we are yet w/o sin... so that He could go to the cross as the perfect sinless sacrifice for OUR Sins**

CONCLUSION:

- 1. What would it profit a man to gain the whole world...
but loose his own soul?**
- 2. We All Face Temptation That Tries to Distort Our Proper Perspective
But Wisdom fro Above Provides Proper Perspective**
- 3. But God Will Not Allow Us to Be Tempted More than We Can Bear,
He Will Provide a Way of Escape...**
- 4. **James 4:7–8, 10****