



**(SLIDE #1) IMITATING JESUS
WHEN WE FACE TEMPTATION!**

Introduction:

- A. On Sunday Evening Two Weeks Ago, We Studied One Of The Great Events Of The Bible -- The Temptation Of Jesus.

- B. It Is Recorded In Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12,13; Lk. 4:1-13.

- C. These Events Occurred Soon After Jesus Was Baptized And The Father And The Spirit Identified Him As The "Son Of God."

- D. **(Slide #2)** Matthew 4:1-11 "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' ⁴But He answered and said, 'It is written, *'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*" **(Slide #3)** ⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: *'He shall give His angels charge over you,'* and, *'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*" ⁷Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'*" **(Slide #4)** ⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*" ¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."

- E. He Then Went Into The Wilderness TO BE TEMPTED And Fasted For 40 Days; He Was Tempted During That Time; Satan Presented Three Difficult Temptations When Jesus Was At Him Lowest Moment!
 - 1. Jesus was tempted DURING that 40 days: "being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry." Luke 4:2

2. Then Satan presented those three difficult temptations when Jesus was at the end of the 40 days of fasting:
 - a. **“If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.” Mt. 4:3
 - b. **“If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down from the pinnacle of the Temple and let God take care of you!” Mt. 4:6
 - c. **“Just worship me ONE TIME** and I will give you all of these kingdoms of the world!”

- F. As Strong As Those Temptations Were, Jesus Did Not Succumb To Them! He Was Victorious Over All Of Those Temptations!
 1. After fasting for 40 days, he was hungry.

 2. No wonder! And yet, He overcame!

- G. How Did Jesus Overcome Temptation?

I. (Slide #5) Be Totally Engrossed In Scripture!

- A. (Slide #6) Observe How He Reacted To And Overcame All Three Temptations:
 1. The First Temptation:
 - a. “You are HUNGRY -- turn these stones into bread!” Mt. 4:3
 1. Here was the temptation of the **“Lust Of The Flesh!”**
 2. Imagine how hungry He was!
 3. “You’re hungry; God expects you to eat! Go ahead and perform a miracle and take care of yourself!”
 - b. This temptation occurred when Jesus was alone being tempted by Satan.
 - c. (►) Jesus’ resistance to that temptation: “It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’*” Mt. 4:4. He cites Dt. 8:3.
 1. To Jesus, fulfilling the desire of the body was not worth disobeying God.
 2. He knew the Scriptures; He honored them!
 3. He was the Word; He also had the Word in His heart; His knowledge of It and the recall of it was such a strengthening protection!
 4. Ps. 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

2. The Second Temptation:
 - a. I use Matthew's order because I believe the first two are direct attacks upon His recent endorsement by the Spirit, Mt. 3:16 and by the Father "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", Mt. 3:17! Too, Matthew introduces the second temptation with the word, "then" 5 and the third temptation with the word "Again." 8
 - b. **"If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down. For it is written: *'He shall give His angels charge over you,'* and, *'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'* Mt. 4:6
 1. Now Jesus is tempted by the **"Pride of Life!"**
 2. This time the devil even quotes Scripture -- Ps. 91:11,12!
 3. God has promised to take care of the faithful; go ahead and jump from this mighty hill; let God the Father prove His love and extend His Divine protection to you!
 - c. The first temptation was when He was alone with Satan. This second temptation was in Jerusalem where worshipers were in awe of the Temple and where God was being worshiped.
 - d. (▶) Jesus' resistance to that temptation: "It is written again, *'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'*" Mt. 4:7. He quotes Dt. 6:16.
 - e. He would not tempt God to PROVE His love, providence, or protection; He already knew the answer to that!
3. The Third Temptation:
 - a. Satan took Jesus to a really high mountain where he showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and said, "Just worship me ONE TIME [this is an aorist subjunctive verb in Greek] and I will give you all of the kingdoms of the world!"
 - b. Satan's offer: "You came to be a king; just worship me and I'll give the WHOLE WORLD to you!"
 - c. (▶) Jesus' resistance to this temptation: "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*" Mt. 4:10. Here He cites Dt. 6:13.
 - d. Lk. 4:8 "And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, *'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'*"
 - e. Jesus would never allow pride to cause Him to disobey God or to leave Him and He would never to anything that would gratify Satan's wishes or to turn to and worship the Devil.

B. What Is The Lesson For Us Today?

1. Be ENGROSSED in the Word.
2. Love It, study It, absorb It, long to live by It, let It guide your conscience and your actions; let It prick your conscience when you are tempted to sin!

3. HOW VITAL study of the Word is at home, in Bible Classes, and in worship!

II. (Slide #7) Be Absolutely In Love With God!

- A. After The Third Temptation Jesus Responded: “For it is written, *‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*” Mt. 4:10

- B. True And Abiding Love Is VERY Powerful!

- C. We Should YEARN To Please God; We Should Agonize At Doing Anything That Would Grieve Him!

- D. Grow Your Love And Faith In Christ!
 1. I Jn. 5:4 “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.”

 2. Trust in Him; KNOW that you can be an overcomer!

III. (Slide #8) Despise Satan!

- A. Do Not Be Enamored By Him And His Deviousness!

- B. Do Not Be Hoodwinked Or Conned By Satan!

- C. Understand Who He Is:
 1. From the text about Jesus’ temptations:
 - a. “Satan” -- enemy or adversary. 4:10; Mk. 1:13; Lk. 4:8
 - b. “Devil” -- slanderer or accuser. 4:1,5,8,11; Lk. 4:1,3,5,6,13
 - c. “Tempter” -- 4:3

 2. From elsewhere in Scripture:
 - a. He is THE adversary of the godly!
 1. I Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
 2. He is NOT the friend of the godly.
 3. He seeks to devour them!

- b. He is a deceiver and a liar!
 - 1. Jn. 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
 - 2. Rev. 12:9 “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
 - 3. He lied to Eve, “And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” Gen. 3:2-5.
 - a. They ate; they died!
 - b. They died spiritually THAT DAY (they separated themselves from God)!
 - c. They did physically after being driven from the Garden of Eden where they had access to the Tree of Life!
 - 4. He loves deception and dishonest!
- c. He is a destroyer!
 - 1. Jn. 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning.”
 - 2. He loves misery and eternal separation from God!
 - 3. He wants people to be separated from God and to be in misery with him in Hell forever!

D. Respond To Him As Jesus Did!

- 1. After the third temptation, Jesus responded to Satan: “Away with you, Satan!” Mt. 4:10
- 2. Luke’s account: “And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan!’” Lk. 4:8
- 3. We need to have the SAME understanding of who he is and the same hatred for him!
 - a. Don’t flirt around with sin; don’t let your heart be lured by it!
 - b. Don’t let your heart be deceived or suckered by Satan!!!!

- E. Should We As Christians Feel Empathy For, Sympathy For, Compassion For, Or Intrigue For Satan?
 - 1. ABSOLUTELY NOT!
 - 2. Our attitude should be the attitude of Jesus, “Away with you, Satan!”; “Get behind Me, Satan!”
 - a. “I don’t want ANYTHING to do with you!”
 - b. “I want my love and allegiance to be with one who LOVES me, one who CARES for me, one who HAS MY BEST INTEREST AT HEART!”

- F. Our Love And Loyalty Should Be To The Godhead!
 - 1. “Father we love you;” “Jesus we love you;” “Spirit we love you!”
 - 2. “My Jesus I Love Thee!”

IV. (Slide #9) LOOK For The Way Of Escape!

- A. Jesus Was Not About To Give In To Temptation!

- B. He Was Not Intrigued By Deceptive Promises And Lies.

- C. He Knew Who He Was; He Knew Who His Father Was; He Was Not About To Compromise At All!

- D. Jesus Was Not Looking To Just Get Along With Satan; He Was Looking To Be Victorious!

- E. God Promised That There Is Always A Way Of Escape.
 - 1. I Cor. 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.”
 - 2. Jesus showed us that there is a way of escape! It is to be determined to overcome that temptation!

V. (Slide #10) Temptation May Be To Just Refuse To Do What We Should Do!

A. Many People Believe As Long As They Do Not Do “BAD” Things, As Long As They Do Not Give In To THOSE “BAD” Temptations, They Are Godly!

B. However, We May Be Tempted To Neglect To Do What We Should Do!

C. Jesus Came Here On A Mission!

1. Jn. 5:30 “I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”
2. Jn. 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”
3. Lk. 19:10 “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
4. What if He had refused to do it? He would have rejected His mission; we would still be in sin!
5. His Mission was demanding; He still HAD TO DO IT!

D. Partial Obedience Is In Reality Disobedience!

1. We may claim to love God.
2. However, if we pick and choose what we obey, and only do those things WE like, we are not being obedient! We are disobedient!
3. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (This is not “partial obedience;” rather, “keep My commandments!”)

E. What If We Refuse To:

1. Become a Christian?
2. Worship?
3. Give as we have been prospered? Mal. 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.”
4. Live a holy life?

(Slide #11) Conclusion:

A. Temptation Is Real; You Face It Daily!

B. As You Face Temptation, Imitate Jesus' Response And Overcome It!