

Jesus' Temptation

Looking into the Face of Jesus
The Life of Christ, 1: Pages 105-115
Outline: Lesson Plan 11

Introduction

- A. Text: Matthew 4:1–4:11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1–13; John 1:19–2:12
- B. Read Matthew 4:1–11
 - 1. Setting the stage for the dual between Jesus and Satan
 - 2. Why did this event happen?
 - a. "Temptation" (Greek: *peirazo*) can mean "tempt" or "test."
 - b. Being baptized does not mean the devil gives up.
 - 3. Satan knew that only one sin would destroy His mission.
- C. From God's viewpoint: this time in the wilderness was a season of testing to prove Jesus' true worth and character.

I. The Place of the Temptation "the Wilderness"

- A. "The wilderness"
 - 1. We do not know the location of this wilderness.
 - 2. It could be the wilderness of Judea.
 - 3. Mark says Jesus' only companions were "the wild beast."
- B. The opponents for the battle: Jesus versus the devil
- C. Jesus came to the wilderness fresh from His baptism ready to start His ministry.
 - 1. He came face to face with the prince of the air and the god of the world.
 - 2. This battle was one of the greatest the world has ever known.

II. The Details of the Temptations

- A. Read Matthew 4:1: Jesus was "led by the Spirit."
 - 1. Also, the devil had to come out into the open. This also shows that this was planned.
 - 2. The devil often acts in secret, working behind the scenes. He was not able to do that here.
- B. The three temptations
 - 1. Read 1 John 2:16.
 - 2. A physical test—turning the stones into bread: "lust of the flesh"
 - 3. A spiritual test—jumping safely from the temple: "pride of life"
 - 4. A compromise test—viewing the glory of the kingdoms of the world: "lust of the eyes"

III. The Importance of These Temptations

- A. To understand how the devil works and how we should respond
- B. To understand how the devil tempts us

1. The 3 temptations—remember 1 John 2:16.
2. Turning the Stones into bread: “lust of the flesh” (appetite)
3. Jumping safely from the temple: “pride of life” (acclaim)
4. Viewing the glory of the kingdoms of the world: “lust of the eyes” (avarice)

Conclusion

- A. Shall we apply the temptation to ourselves?
 1. The devil knew if he could just defeat Jesus in one of these, he had defeated Him completely.
 2. Think about that in our lives today.
 - a. The devil does not have to own you in all things—just in one.
 - b. Think of the illustration of the rich landowner who sold only one block to the devil, and from that time forward he could not get him out of his life.
 - c. Do not let the devil own any part of your life.
- B. Give your whole life to the Lord. Give every single part of it. Just because you are righteous in many things, that does not mean anything if the devil owns a part of your life.
- C. Is there one thing in your life that the devil owns that you need to give back to God?