

Sunday, October 5, 2025

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Temptation of Christ

Series: Spiritual Warfare ... 3; Text: Matt 4:1 - 11

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation that Satan personally tried to defeat Christ Jesus through temptation and deceit; the followers (fallen angels) of Satan will certainly endeavor to tempt and deceive believers, our primary protection is the Word of God.

Introduction:

2 Corinthians 2:11, “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.”

KJV – devices, NIV – schemes, DRY – thoughts

In the devotional last week we considered Genesis 3 which records how Satan tempted and deceived Adam and Eve: ~ 1) The Serpent, ~ 2) The Strategy, ~ 3) The Sentencing, ~ 4) The Supernatural Provision

~ Ephesians 6:10 – 12, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over the present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Compare with 2 Kings 6:16, “He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them,””

~ The fact of spiritual warfare is clearly seen in Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Daniel 10

~ Satan came against Adam and Eve; in Matthew 4 he comes against Christ Jesus! His main strategies are revealed to humankind.

~ Meaning of the word ‘lied:’ “to make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive.” A lie is not only a false statement, but also taking a true statement out of context and using it to deceive and influence contrary to that which was intended the context.

1. Christ Jesus Led by the Holy Spirit:

~ vs. 1 – “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

~ Mark 1:12 – “The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.”

~ Matthew 4:1 – ‘led’ (G321, anago) bring, loose, sail, launch, depart

Mark 4:2 – ‘drove’ (G846, autos = “Him”, and G1544, ekballo = “[to go] out”) Ekballo – to cast out, drive out, to send out; with notion of violence

~ Notice that the attack followed a time of committed obedience to the will of God. Not infrequently we encounter spiritual attacks after a mountain high experience of obedience to God.

2. Christ Jesus Challenged to ‘Make Bread’:

~ vs. 2 – 3, And after forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. (3) And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread,”

~ “If you are” some commentators suggest that this could equally translated “since you are”

~ In the English “if” is a conjunction introducing a conditional clause on the condition or supposition that...

~ Using the power of god to meet our own needs is common in the occult (there are people who pray to Satan and many who trust in practices that supposedly grant them favor with the universe which is ‘New Age’ teaching). Contrast with Luke 14:12

~ Jesus’ defense was the Word of God!

3. Christ Jesus Challenged to ‘Throw Yourself Down’:

~ vs. 6, “throw yourself down”

~ Psalm 91:9 – 10, “Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—(10) no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.”

Psalm 34:7 & 20, “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.” And vs. 20, “He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.” Prophetic of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ “We tempt God when we put ourselves into circumstances that force him to work miracles on our behalf.”

“We Let Our Son Die” by Larry Parker, 1980, Harvest House Publishers

~ Presumption is NOT faith.

~ 2 Corinthians 12:1 – 10

~ vs. 7, “Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

See Exodus 17:2 and 7

~ Notice the defense of the Lord Jesus Christ was the Word of God (two for two).

4: Christ Jesus Challenged to ‘Worship Me’:

~ vs. 8 – 9, “...fall down and worship me.”

~ Jesus did not rebuke the devil nor say that is a lie...

~ For the third time (3 for 3) Jesus answered with the Word of God.

vs. 10, “Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” See Joshua 24:14 - 15

Conclusion:

James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

2 Timothy 2:15, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

Communion