

“Lessons From the Temptations of Christ”

Matthew 4

Open: Tell the Story of Matt. 4

- The difference between testing and temptation. **Mt. 4:1** “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil.”
 - Testing (purify our faith). **James 1:12** “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried [**Job23:10**], he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him [**Rom. 8:28**].”
 - **ILL:** God asking Abraham to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice.
 - Temptation (tempting to sin). **James 1:13** “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:”
 - **ILL:** Satan tempting Adam and Eve in the Garden.
- Jesus successfully overcomes the temptation of Satan while in the wilderness. **vs. 1-11**
 - Often a time of testing will precede a time of using. (Jesus earthly ministry)
 - Often a time of testing will follow a great victory. (40 day fasting)
 - Jesus was not satisfied with His defeat of the devil, He wanted to succeed in His service for God. **vs. 12-17**
 - Jesus didn’t attempt to complete the work Himself, He got others involved. **vs. 18-23**
 - Jesus shows us, by example, in order to reach those, you care about; you must first care about those you’re trying to reach. **vs. 24-25**

Tran: Application

- We must realize that God will always make a way to escape temptation. **I 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.”
- It is important to recognize that Jesus did not try, in his own power, to defeat the devil. (**vs. 4, 7, 10**)
 - He knew the Word of God. – “You cannot use, what you do not know.” **Ps. 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
 - He used the Word of God. (Jesus did not attempt to defeat the devil in His own strength.)
Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - He submitted Himself **and** obeyed the Word of God. **James 4:7** “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - He trusted the Word of God. – Defeating sin in your life requires you to not just know and use God’s Word; but you must trust God’s timing, while you wait for the promise of God’s Word to be fulfilled.
 - **Prov. 30:5** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

- It is important to recognize that Jesus did not quite during or after His time of testing; He went on to build a great work for God. (**vs. 12 & 16**)
 - Jesus received strength from His temptation in the wilderness to go out and help others with their times of difficulty, because **He did not quite during** his trials. **II Cor. 1:4-5** *“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. [5] For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.”*
 - Because Jesus did not quit, He set an example for others to follow. **I Peter. 2:21** *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”*

I. Decide to deal with life’s temptations, testing’s, and trials the way Jesus did.

- Everyone will face temptations and testing’s in life. You will either choose to face them on your own or choose to go through them with God. **Matt. 11:28-30** *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*
 - Don’t be surprised when times of testing come into your life. **I Peter 4:12** *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”*
 - Realize Jesus understands what your going through and wants to help you. **Heb.4:15-16** *“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. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*
- A. Know God’s Word. – *“You will never know what you do not read.”*
- **Ps. 119:47-50** *“And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. [48] My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes. [49] Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. [50] **This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.**”*
 - i. You need to have a biblical foundation that will not shake in the storms of life.
 - ii. You need to read the Bible and learn from the examples of others, who have faced difficulties and trials.
- B. Obey God’s Word.
- **Gal. 5:7** *“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”*
 - i. Do not seek to know more, seek to obey more. **To many people spend their time seeking for answers to things they do not know instead of obeying what they do know.**
 - ii. Do not spend your life trying to understand God, spend your life obeying God. The understanding will come, only after the obeying of His Word.

C. Trust God's Word. Trust God can and will honour His Word in your life.

- **Prov. 3:5-7** *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. [7] Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*
- i. Don't quit on God because you don't think obeying God is working. **Is. 26:3** *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”*
- ii. Don't get bitter at God because you think He's not working fast enough. **Rom. 8:28**
- iii. Don't trust man's ability to explain the current circumstances. **Ps. 20:7** *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*
 - **“Your response is your responsibility.”**

II. Decide you're going to do your part in the work of God.

- Do not allow the times of testing cause you to become bitter towards the work of God. Use your times of testing to help others, don't waste your trials. **II Cor. 1:4** *“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”*
- A. Jesus is looking for someone to step up and fill in the gap. **Ezek. 22:30-31** *“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. [31] Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.”*
 - i. God has something for **everyone** to do. **ILL: Maniac of Ghadera; Woman at the Well; Samuel**
 - ii. God not only wants you, but He also needs you. **ILL: I Cor. 12:18** *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”*
 - iii. God leaves no room for excuses. **ILL: Moses & Gideon**
- B. Work in the work. You may not seem to be as talented as those around you; but you can do something no one else can. God has you here for a purpose, find out what it is and do it.
 - i. Work requires effort. **I Thess. 1:3** *“Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”*
 - ii. Only work done for Christ will last. **I Cor. 3:13-14** *“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”*
- C. Encourage others to work in the work.
 - i. Encourage others through your actions. **ILL: Being faithful; being thoughtful; being a team player.**
 - ii. Encourage others with words of encouragement. **ILL: Text's; letter's; pat on the back.**
 - iii. Encourage others by going to prayer on their behalf.
 - a. Pray for more labourers.
 - b. Pray for those who are labouring.

Close:

- Jesus taught us how to overcome temptations, trails, and testings in life. Will you follow His example?
- Jesus taught us how to live a life that was pleasing to the heavenly Father. Will you answer the call to work?
- Jesus taught us how to love people. Will you follow His example and love as He loved?

Acts 6:4

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”

“Review Questions”

1. Jesus did not try to defeat the devil on His own, what did He use to defeat Satan? **He used the Words of God.**
2. Where did Jesus receive His strength to help others during their times of trials? **By not quitting during his trials.**
3. Jesus’ success in the ministry was not defined by the miracles He performed; but by the people He **Loved.**
4. It is important to realize that God has something for **everyone** to do in His work.
5. How should we decide to love people? **The way Jesus loved them**