

Resource Sheet 57

Temptations (Matthew 4:1-11)

Reading:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But 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.'"

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and 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.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then 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.'"

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (Matthew 4:1-11)

Some questions for discussion:

1. When did the devil start to tempt Jesus? – after 40 days of fasting; when we are doing God's will and we try to live as Christians, we can expect temptations from devil.
2. Why did the devil tempt Jesus Christ? – He tempted the human nature of Christ (Jesus Christ is the God-Man), and as an enemy of humankind. He wanted to ruin the salvation plan.
3. What was the first temptation? - (food) Jesus had been 40 days without food. He is God and as a God He can transform the stones into bread, but if He does this, He will put food ahead of what he has to do in his mission. This is what the devil wants to do ... put Him off track.
4. What is Christ teaching us? – spiritual/intellectual food is more important than everything that our body needs. If someone strives for the Kingdom of God, God will not leave him in need.
5. What was the second temptation? – (vanity) How did Jesus answer?
6. What was the third temptation? How did Jesus answer? – (the abuse of wealth and power) devil has the power to make everybody rich or powerful, but at a terrible price.

Activity "It is written":

Jesus answered "it is written". With the help of the Scripture, find the verses and write them in the table:

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matt.4:4)	(Deuteronomy 8:3)
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. (Matt.4:6)	(Ps. 90:11-12 – in KJV 91:11-12)
For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' (Matt.4:10)	(Deuteronomy 6:13)