

3. **Temptation** → according to a Wrong Interpretation of the Bible:

a. Twisting the Word – From ⁹ ...the highest point of the temple [the devil said to Jesus]. “If you are the Son of God,...throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He will command his angels...to guard you carefully; ¹¹ ...so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Not only the devil and false teachers, but even true Christian teachers can mishandle the truth – even I can, *but I NEVER intend to do so!* Nevertheless, *because wrong interpretations are so common, it is essential for EACH PERSON to personally know God’s Holy Word of Truth!*

b. Knowing the truth – ¹² Jesus answered, “It says: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” But that is what people do today when they ✦ ignore the Word, ✦ agree with the sinful world, and ✦ live in immorality – *with the thought that their sins are forgiven and heaven is open!* **By GOD’S WORK through His Word of truth** we ✦ know of our sin, ✦ have godly sorrow, and ✦ rejoice in the SECOND Adam – *who did not fall and fully won our salvation!*

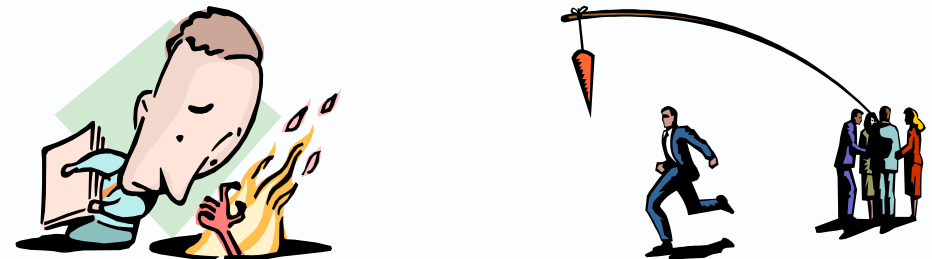
Conclusion: Today’s Memory Verse → ^{NIV} Psalm 119:9 & 11

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word... ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart [I have memorized it] that I might not sin against you.”

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“Jesus was Tempted, but He Did Not Fall!”

Based on Luke 4:1-13 NIV



1st Sunday in Lent – 2010
February 21 → 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today we are beginning a *Sunday Lenten series* on the topic of **temptation**. Let me begin with a *chronological order of events*:

- God created the world with *no sin!*
- The devil tempted Eve and the FIRST Adam; they both fell into sin, *which brought sin to all people!*
- God promised to send a *SECOND Adam* to be our Savior; then, when the time was right, He came AND He was tempted – *but He did not fall!*
- Now – *in Christ* – we are forgiven; however, as the devil tempted Eve, Adam, and Jesus, *so he will tempt us!*

Therefore, let us ✦ rejoice that Jesus is our sinless Savior, ✦ better understand the tactics of the devil, and ✦ follow God’s Holy Word in every circumstance of life!

1. **Temptation → according to our Felt Needs:**

a. Jesus' felt need – ¹ **Jesus...was led by the Spirit in the desert,** ² **...for forty days.... He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.**

We don't know all the details, *but these are the facts:*

- i. Jesus was in the desert – *a place with virtually no food.*
- ii. Jesus was there because God wanted Him to be there – *He was led by the Spirit.*
- iii. Jesus ate nothing – *during those forty days.*
- iv. Jesus was hungry – *probably increasingly hungry as the 40th day drew closer and closer.*

Therefore, Jesus had a HUGE felt need of physical hunger!

b. The devil's temptation –

i. ³ **The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”** Just prior to being led into the desert, the Father said from heaven: **“You are my Son...”** (Luke 3:22 NIV) So the devil tempted Jesus in two ways:

1. The devil wanted Jesus to doubt who He is – **the Son of God! He also wants us to doubt our forgiveness through Jesus!**
2. The devil also wanted Jesus to put His trust in Himself – **by providing His own needs, by turning a stone into bread! He also wants us to trust in our paychecks and pantries – rather than in our Heavenly Father!**

Jesus could have done the miracle – **His felt needs were even screaming for Him to do so, but He did not fall!** He was tested – *and He passed – unlike the FIRST Adam!*

ii. ⁴ **Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone.’”** Matthew adds: **“...but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”** (4:4 NIV) **God wants us to know that life is much more than food or any felt need;** let's not be like **“godless...Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights...”** (Heb. 12:16 NIV)

2. **Temptation → according to the Easy Way Out:**

a. The devil is powerful – ⁵ **The devil led [Jesus] up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.** *Let us never underestimate the power of the ✓ devil, ✓ the world, and ✓ our own sinful natures!*

b. The devil tempted Jesus to take the easy way out – ⁶ **“I will give you all their authority and splendor...”** ⁷ **...if you worship me, it will all be yours.”** In other words, forget Your arrest, Your suffering, Your cross; *this way is much easier!* But who was making that offer? Yes, **“the father of lies.”** (John 8:44 NIV) **But how did Jesus know it was a lie? Because He knows the Scriptures!** So ⁸ **Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”**

Since this world is so full of lies, *let us know the truth – so that we are not led back to the path of → sin, → separation, → death, and → hell!*