

Second Sunday in Lent – 2025

Saturday, 3/8 at 4:00 & Sunday, 3/9 at 9:00

Overcoming Temptation

Text: Luke 4:1-13 NAS-95

Lenten Wednesdays: Service 11, Meal 12 | Meal 6, Service 7

Introduction: Dear friends: We have all been tempted and, *except for Jesus*, we have all fallen into sin. Sin is never good:

- ❖ When followers of Jesus sin, *we dishonor Him!*
- ❖ When unbelievers sin, *they increase the hardness of their hearts!*

Since sin is never good, let us ➡ learn about Jesus, ➡ learn from Jesus and ➡ be instructed by two key Bible passages.

First, we learn about Jesus:

- + He is God in human flesh!
- + He was fully tempted but He did not fall into sin!
- + He perfectly kept God's Law in our place!
- + He is the only way to heaven!

For heaven: We never trust in our ability to escape temptation; instead, *we trust in Jesus, who overcame all temptation in our place!*

Second, we learn from Jesus: [Luke chapter 3](#) records Jesus being anointed with the Holy Spirit, *which marked the beginning of His ministry*. Now, *as we move into [Luke chapter 4](#)*, we come to Jesus being tempted by the devil. In each case, notice ➡ how He was tempted and ➡ how He defended Himself. Then, *let us apply His method in our daily lives!*

1. **Temptation 1 – Trust In Yourself:** ¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days; and when they had ended, He became hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”
 - a. The Situation: The Spirit led, *and Jesus obediently followed*. During those 40 days, *Jesus ate nothing and was tempted by the devil*. When Jesus became hungry, *the devil tempted Him to satisfy His hunger by turning a stone into bread*.
 - b. Overcoming Temptation: Jesus knew His Father *was* fully aware of His hunger and *would* provide at the right time. Jesus didn’t take matters into His own hands; instead, *He* trusted in His Father and *responded* to the devil with “*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*” (Eph. 6:17).
 - c. Application: How are we trusting in ourselves – *trying to fix our own problems*, rather than trusting in God? *Wherever we are doing such things, let us repent!*

2. **Temptation 2 – Worship Someone or Something Else:** ⁵ And [the devil] led [Jesus] up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”

- a. The Situation: The devil SAID that all the kingdoms of the world had been handed over to him, *but that was a lie from the father of lies (John 8:44)*. He tried to trick Jesus into worshiping him: ♦bowing down to Him and ♦putting Himself under him.
- b. Overcoming Temptation: Jesus said what is BEST: *Only God should be worshiped and served!*
- c. Application: Is there anyone or anything that we **love** or **trust** more than God? Or, *thinking about Luke 9:23*, is there someone or something in our lives that is preventing us from ♦denying ourselves, ♦taking up our cross, and ♦following Jesus? If so, *let us repent!*

3. **Temptation 3 – Wrongfully Apply God’s Promises:** ⁹ **And [the devil] led [Jesus] to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You,’ ¹¹ and, ‘On *their* hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’” ¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.**

- a. The Situation: The devil wanted Jesus to put God to the test by doing something foolish.
- b. Overcoming Temptation: We are called to ♦know God’s promises, ♦believe them, ♦be confident that He will keep them, and ♦live with thanksgiving!
- c. Application: **James 4:7** *“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* Three key

parts: **submit**, **resist**, and **flee**. All 3 parts are important. Some try part 2, hoping for part 3, but that won't work. *Let us rightly apply God's promises!*

4. **Two Key Passages:**

- a. **James 1:13-15** ...God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
 - i. *God tempts no one!* But all people, *even us Christians*, have a sinful nature, *that keeps tempting us to sin.*
 - ii. The more we are pulled into sin, *the more we are pulled away from Jesus. Therefore, ongoing repentance* is very important!
- b. **1 Corinthians 10:13** ...God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
 - i. When we sin – *no excuses*, it's our fault, not God's, and we failed to take the way of escape.
 - ii. **Therefore**, when we fall into sin, *let us have godly sorrow and repent!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, TY for ♦being our sinless substitute and ♦teaching us how to avoid sin and honor You!

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