

**We all encounter temptation every day—It is part of the human condition.**

- It is also part of the Christian condition.
- Being a follower of Jesus does not make us exempt from temptation... in fact it may even make us more a **target of the tempter**, and it tends to **increases the tempting-ness of temptation**
  - (We have new natures and want to do righteously)
- But, being a follower of Jesus does change the nature of temptation for us—we are not powerless in facing it
- In this text Jesus teaches us to win against the temptations of the devil

**Good news has been brought to us in Jesus:**

- The fall in the Garden is not the final determiner of the human condition (The Second Adam)
- We have a victorious all-powerful and perfect King who redeems our failures and fallen condition
- He is merciful and compassionate and knows our woes and gives us help (Sinless High Priest)

**Early in the text we gain witness to 2 things we already know. (Verses 1-2)**

- **Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted**
  - 1. God uses our trials for our growth and our good (Cf. **James 1:2-4, 12, NIV**)
    - We gain strength when we stand up under trials and temptations
    - What Satan means for evil God works for good (backfires!)
- **And after he had fasted forty days...**
  - 2. Every mountain top descends to a valley
    - That is not bad... the valley is where the fruit is grown (Cf. **James**)
    - From the high of baptism & fasting to the low of confrontation & temptation in the wilderness

**The reign of the King was being challenged...**

- This temptation was designed by Satan to cause Jesus to fail in His role as King and Messiah (to deflect him from doing God's will and extending God's blessing and rule)
- **We get these temptations well:**
  - Use your resources to satisfy yourself first
  - Demand that God always meet your expectations
  - Don't go the way of the Cross; take the shortcut always!
    - Jesus resisted these and came of victorious and shows us the way

**How do we win against the devil?**

- Do what Jesus did:
  - 1. He resisted the devil (He did not give in)
  - 2. He retorted with Scripture (He stood on truth)
    - I.e. Resolve **and** the Word of God
    - I.e. Strength in the Spirit **and** trust in the Truth
    - I.e. Unwillingness to yield **and** wielding of the Word
- **Real promises about resisting the Devil**
  - **James 4:7, NASB; 1 Corinthians 10:13, NLT; 1 Peter 5:6-10, NIV**
- **Real power in God's Word**
  - **Psalm 119:9, 11, 105, NLT**

- All of Jesus' retorts were from the Book of **Deuteronomy**
  - Written thousands of years ago
    - Jesus sees that it **applies** to His life right now (the current problem)
    - Jesus affirms the **reliability** and **unchangeability** of Scripture
- Jesus affirms the life **sustaining value** of Scripture
- Jesus affirms **all of** Scripture (**every word**)
  - No parts of Scripture are to be neglected, discounted, dismissed, doubted
- Jesus affirms the **nature/source** of Scripture (**out of the mouth of God**)
  - Jesus views God as the author of Scripture and shows is therefore that it has **real power**, is **life giving**, and must be **heeded** carefully
  - Obedience to the Word was important to Jesus—it must be important to His followers

#### The same resource of God's Word is available to us

- Even though Jesus was tempted to do something that **we could never do**, He used the same resource
- He did not quote or rely on a passage that had to do exclusively with being the Messiah—He employed truth that **is for** and **applies to** all of us
- **Jesus overcame temptation with resources available to each of His followers**
- **The best advice I ever got...**

#### The deep issues at hand:

- **Verses 3-4** = true nourishment from God (contentment)
- **Verses 6-7** = true trust in God (circumstances)
- **Verses 8-10** = true allegiance to God (cross)

#### (Pro-Presenter Team: Please leave the above slide up for the rest of the time until the closing Hebrews verses)

- **Gain:** True nourishment from God (**vv. 3-4**)
  - **Issue:** Contentment (**Did God really say...** the one tree)
  - **Loss:** We don't read/obey our Bibles and pray because we do not believe in true sustenance
    - **Is not life more than food?** (Jesus in Matthew 6:25)
    - **My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work** (Jesus in John 4:34)
    - We attend to the physical and neglect the spiritual
  - A life sustained by food only is a very poor life
  - Jesus had the love of the Father, intimacy with Him, the Spirit... what He did not have was bread
    - Satan is always trying to get our eyes on what we don't have (Cf. The Garden)
    - Jesus has taught us to live from a place of being content in Him (**godliness with contentment...**)
    - Satan wants us always discontent (think about culture and economy---they are built on the principle of discontentment) (**yeah, but you do not have bread...**)
- **Gain:** True trust in God (**vv. 6-7**)
  - **Issue:** Circumstances
  - **Loss:** We get mad at God because we do not like our circumstances and do not trust His purposes in them
    - **Massah... because they tested the Lord, saying "Is the Lord among us or not?"** (Exodus 17:7)
  - Can we demand the miraculous from God every time we are in need?
    - That would make God a servant of us—we are servants of His!!!
    - The temptation here is to make self the master and God the slave (we do that all the time)
    - **Jesus prefers quiet trust in the Father's love, a trust that needs no test and that is ready to accept His will!**
- **Gain:** True allegiance to God (**vv. 8-10**)
  - **Issue:** Cross
  - **Loss:** Over-valuing lesser things because of the short-term perceived payoff

#### Deep issues:

- Can I rest in God
- Can I trust God

- Can I exalt God and go His way
  - Or, do I have to:
    - Satisfy my needs now
    - Refuse to endure trials
    - Not go the way of the cross

A denial of the very nature of Christianity

- That is what Satan is aiming for
- But Jesus was shown us a better way
- And He is present to help us today

**Remember:** Satan always challenges what God says (**did God really say...?**)

- Usually starts with what we are most concerned with (self)
- And what we are most concerned with secondly (what we don't have) (get to that in a minute)
  - Cf. The Garden (self and what did not have)

**If you are the Son of God...** (2 times; vv. 3 and 6)

- Not doubt (Satan knew) (**if** = as is the case; since)
- Not doubt of Jesus' identity, **it is the demanding of proof of His identity**
  - I.e. "This whole unconditional love of the Father thing is not real"
  - I.e. "You need to show yourself worthy... Do something of real worth"
- **We experience this temptation every day**
  - An attack on the **Gospel** and our **identity** in Christ, and a temptation toward **false** religiosity
  - To **destroy** our place of **rest** in God's love and try to get us to **toil to earn** it (**prove** our worth)
  - BUT, HOW DOES BAPTISM PREPARE US FOR TEMPTATION?
    - New, unearned identity
    - **I.e. Grace—we have been immersed into something that is not our doing (We have been plunged into the glorious waters of God's deep deep love)**
- We are getting savvy to the devil's tricks here
  - Very importantly, the flip side of that coin (I.e. "earn it"), is the **accusation** of "you've lost it"
  - I.e. "You can't be the beloved of God... look what you have done/failed to do"
  - **Jesus could face temptation because He trusted in the experience of His baptism**

Because Jesus was victorious we have these wonderful truths:

**Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16, NASB**