

Temptations of Jesus – Scripture (NKJV)

Mark 1: 12-13

“Immediately the **Spirit drove Him** into the **wilderness**. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, **tempted by Satan**, and was with **wild beasts**; and the **angels** ministered to Him.”

Matthew 4:1-11 (also in Luke 4:1-13)

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

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

⁴But 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.’**”

⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and 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.’**” ⁷Jesus said to him, “**It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’**”

⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, “**All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.**”

¹⁰Then 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.’**”

¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him

Temptations of Jesus – Explained

- This wilderness passage is part of God’s purpose to show us how to defeat Satan and resist temptations. “Immediately the Spirit “impelled” Him - emphasizes it was God’s purpose for Jesus to be tempted.
- Mark doesn’t discuss the actual temptations (like Matt. & Luke), but he stresses that temptations did occur, the Spirit allowed it and there were both Wild Beast & Angels present. Once saved (born again), you are now spiritually awake and the Spiritual Battle begins.
- While this passage demonstrates Jesus’ authority and power over Satan, it also gives us an important teaching that Satan is real and dangerous, and how we can have victory in spiritual attacks from Satan in our own lives.
- Satan’s main objective was to induce Christ to act from Himself, in disobedience to God’s will (like the first Adam – Jesus is the “last Adam – 1 Cor. 15:45). **Christ defeated Satan by means available to His followers – using and trusting in the Word of God** (Bible scripture).
- Seems to be a principle of God’s dealing with men that there is always a wilderness experience (i.e. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, King Nebuchadnezzar)
- “40 days in the wilderness” – interesting that Moses waited 40 years before Exodus and fasted 40 days (Ex. 34:28; Deut 9:9), Israel was tested in the Wilderness 40 years (Ex. 16:4-5), Elijah on Mount Horeb for 40 days, Jesus was resurrected for 40 days prior to the Ascension (Acts 1:3); 40 days of waiting after the flood for Noah; 6 weeks to break a habit? – 40 seems to be the period of preparation for God’s purpose in many cases.
- Once saved, we receive the Holy Spirit and Jesus’ experience demonstrates that this is when Spiritual Attacks will be their strongest. Therefore if you or someone you know are a new believer in Jesus Christ, be vigilant, be on guard and don’t take your eyes (trust) off of Jesus. Focus on prayer, reading the Word and separation from people and places where Satan will be there to tempt you – **“Deny Yourself”** (Mark 8:34) and your fleshly desires – “Wild Beasts” will be there, but so will “God”.
- Details of the **3 temptations** are in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13 and are summarized as:
 1. Stones to Bread - **FLESHLY DESIRES** (not trusting God to keep him alive)
 2. Jump and Angel with Catch You - **POWER** (to command angels to save Him)
 3. Ruler of the World - **PRIDE** (doing things the easy way without suffering)
- How did Jesus Defeat Satan? - **TRUST, OBEDIENCE & the WORD** - This is also how you can resist temptation and live Victoriously?