

Series: Overcoming Temptation

C.R. 6-17-18

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Text: Matthew 4: 5-7

Intro: Last week we took a hard look at the first temptation that our Lord faced. He was tested by the devil as to whether God would provide for Him or not. “Turn these stones to bread”. The devil wanted Jesus to act on his own, forget the Father, rebel. But Jesus won the battle by using the Word of God. Man’s greatest need is not bread, but the Word of God. Today we will continue this journey with the Lord Jesus as he is escorted by the enemy to a second location for another test.

1) The Setting (v. 5)

- a. The Pinnacle of the Temple.
- b. This was one of those places that many would probable walk by and say, boy I would hate to have to work up there.
- c. It is said that it was 450-500 feet up. Tradition says that Simon the magician found in Acts 8:9 jumped off this pinnacle to show that he would not be harmed. But he was killed.
- d. With a view of the Holy City Satan would start unfolding his evil plan.
- e. People down below could watch as the Son of God would fall from that pinnacle only to be rescued by His Father. Instant fame.
- f. In an instant he could prove himself to be the Messiah and King and he would be famous.
- g. Matthew Henry: There is no city on earth so holy as to exempt and secure us from the Devil and his temptations.
- h. Jerusalem would be the place that the sins of all mankind would be paid for, and where the victory would be won. No wonder the enemy wanted this to happen.
- i. Note: High Places are slippery places. You are a better target for Satan to fire his darts at in high places.
- j.  God casts down that he may raise up; the Devil raises up, that he may cast down.

2) The Strategy (v. 6)

- a. Satan says ok if you want to use scripture I will too.
- b. Psa 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- c. Psa 91:12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- d. Satan is saying let’s put scripture to the test.
- e. Note: Satan did not use all the verse. He left out “in all thy ways”.
- f. When we are out of the will of God, we step out of the protection of God as well.
- g. Also, of Note he left out v.13. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
- h. Talk about the perversion of scripture. Out of context. Leaving pieces out. No talk of hell. Little talk of Jesus.
- i. Sensationalism. The theme of our day. 1 hour of show and a 15-minute fill good devotional.
- j. People always wanting a sign. See something miraculous. Jesus declared that an evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign.
- k. The crowd that was fed with the fish and bread tried to make him King. They waved the palm branches and shouted Hosanna right after he raised Lazarus from the dead. Yet when he taught scripture the said it was to hard and walked away.
- l. John Macarthur: Demanding sensational proof is not evidence of faith but of doubt. To crave the sign, the dramatic proof is nothing but unmasked unbelief. It is the farthest thing from faith.
- m. 2 reasons. 1) With sensationalism people are never satisfied. They always want more. 2). To test God is to doubt God. To not trust God is to sin. Satan wanted Jesus to sin and then it was over.

- n. Satan's power is limited.
- o. We should clearly see her that Satan can persuade but he cannot push. If you jump it is by your own doing.
- p. Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and not forced, but enticed.
- q. The devil did not make you do it. He asked you to, but you did it.

3) The Scripture (v.7)

- a. Jesus would have no part in cheap sensationalism. He replied "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Duet 6:16).
- b. For those of us that believe this morning, we know the proof is overwhelming and evident that God loves and cares for us.
- c. Jesus did not need to prove to Himself that His Father cared for Him.
- d. Christ was abundantly satisfied that God was already His father and took care of Him.
- e. You and I have God's word that he loves us and that He cares for us. We know that according to His word, if we obey His will he will provide for us and protect us.
- f. To ask God for more signs is to test Him.
- g. **John MacArthur:** Our need is not to prove God's faithfulness but to demonstrate our own, by trusting Him both to determine and to supply our needs according to His own will.
- h. Satan will tempt us to doubt God's protection. He will say well God will supply your need's so go ahead and buy that. But the context of the verse and the rest of the verse is important.
- i. Satan is a thief and a liar.
- j. But it is not a matter of whether God loves you or not. It is a matter of whether or not you believe Him when He says that He loves you and has demonstrated it time and again each day as He provides and protects you! We are called to live by faith. If you have to provoke God in order to believe in Him, then you do not have saving faith. If your faith is only in the miraculous, then there is not trust in God as the sovereign, Almighty God much less a loving, caring Father. The devil appeals to our sinful nature which desires to test the Lord, and he is so bold as to pervert the very words of God in order to bring you to sin. Praise God that we have a Savior who not only withstood such temptation and proved that He is the Son of God, but we have a Savior who has taught us to never test our heavenly Father. Instead, we are to trust in His provision and protection and know that, whatever our circumstances, He is there for us.
- k. Do you test God, or do you trust Him?