

J. W. May 2, 71 P.M. WXR I
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FACE TO FACE WITH THE DEVIL

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

INTRODUCTION

The matter of temptation is something in which Satan offers to give people what they want. Many times he

Historians agree on five particulars:

- 1 - Temp. of our Lord follows his Baptism - Spirit accredited him as Messiah.
2. He was Spirit-guided to meet the issues of the conflict.
3. The scene of the 1st Temp. was in wilderness.
4. The time of the struggle was "Forty days".
5. The Tempter was Satan himself.

Such Word - rendered (Tempt) - means to try, prove, test.

Websters Dictionary - Did you ever try to read it - no, I find it changed subjects to often -
in the store, in the marketplace, in the office, in the great industrial corporations.

We are never tempted in a good sense nor allowed to be tempted in an evil sense beyond our ability to bear or to resist.

And always the decision & the responsibility are upon the tempted one.

✓ James 1:12-15

✓ 1 Cor. 10:13 ~~13~~

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~~There~~, the sight of the temptation is the wilderness. Now, of course the exact wilderness, the place have never been determined, but from scripture, it must have been on the (Arabian penninsula). There are several reasons, first there is a scriptural parallel between our Lord and the Israel nation. Second, Israel as a nation was not only tempted and fell in the Arabian wilderness, but also there in an evil way tempted God.

~~There~~, there is a correspondence between their 40 years of wondering in their wilderness and Christ's 40 days. We read about Moses and Elijah who fasted for 40 days. And our Lord's quotations in His temptations are from the books of the Bible that come from the history of Israel's wilderness wondering.

As the 40 years wilderness life and the wilderness words quoted by our Lord prepared God's Son Israel, 40 days fasting and triumphing over Satan's temptation to work out Israel's great redemption.

You remember Paul when he entered his great work to go and preach to the Gentiles, it was necessary for him to go into seclusion to receive that gospel, and he said, "I conferred not with flesh and blood, I went not to Jerusalem, but I went to Arabia." Evidently, he went there to be under the shadow of (Siani) where the law was given, and in the light of the gospel to gain the view of the law which he so powerfully sets forth in Galatians and Romans.

Several Questions?
1st Q

Now, somebody might ask the question, "Can a man do without food for 40 days?" We read about in the Bible about Moses and Elijah and our Lord fasting for 40 days. I read about a Dr. Tanner who after careful preparation did in the presence of competent witnesses fasted for 40 days. He ate no food. The only thing he allowed himself was an occasional opportunity to rinse his mouth with water, and rarely did he swallow any of the water. But we have recognized that Dr. Tanner was

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not sustained by the high spiritual exaltation of Moses or Elijah, or even our Lord.

2nd Q Now, another question arises, "Was this a real temptation of our Lord?" "Was it a case of not being able to sin, or was He able to sin?" And this vital question comes forth. The temptation of our Lord was not only real, but was a great step in His life. It was no sham battle. When He was face to face with the devil, it was not just a trial of His diety, but of His humanity. He was representative of all human flesh, and here is no stronger proof that the Messiah was a real man. And of course this is more obvious as we consider the later battles in which he faced the devil. Remember, he faced the devil in Gethsamane. That was a tremendous struggle. The great final test or temptation was when He was on the cross. And so these temptations must have been preliminary (skirmishes) and the matter as to whether this was a real temptation, we must say, "Yes it was."

3rd Q Another question might come to our minds, "Why should Jesus be tempted?"

First, He was the second Adam, a new race head. I Cor. 15:45,49. Romans 5:12-21. The first Adam was tempted in a garden full of permitted fruits, and by his fall, he converted it into a desert.

Now, the second Adam was tempted in a desert. He was faint, he was hungry from the 40 days fast, but His victory converted it into a garden.

In the second place, in the highest sense, He was Israel, God's Son. "Out of Egypt have I called my Son." He was the servant of the Lord. Now, national Israel failed under temptation in every probation and under the leadership of Moses and the prophets, they were called out of Egypt, and they must triumph over temptation. But they submitted. Now, Jesus, this representative, He must face these real temptations.

In the third place, He could not become man's substitute in atonement in death and judgment unless He himself had demonstrated that He was a lamb without spot or blemish, holy and harmless and undefiled. Heb. 2:10.

In the fourth place, He could not destroy the work of the Devil and rescue those who were in bondage except He shared the common lot of humanity. Heb. 2:14-15.

He could not become an efficient high priest unless He should become like His brethren that he might become a faithful and merciful high priest in things pertaining to God. Heb. 2:17-18.

He could not seat humanity on the throne of the universe as King of Kings and Lord of Lords unless He empty himself of His heavenly glory. Phil. 2:6-11.

He could not as the Son of Man become the Judge of the world unless He had triumphed in real temptation as a man. John 5:22, Acts 17:31.

In conclusion on this point of why He was tempted, He endured temptation that He might become our worthy example.

So we might summarize the purpose of His temptations from the manger to the cross. The temptations seem to us to be unnecessary and out of keeping, but according to the scripture, there was a definite purpose behind these temptations.

For indeed, the great purpose was to find the right road to the fulfillment of His earthly mission. As the Messiah He had to discover this way. Satan of course came and tempted Him with shortcuts to the kingdom. He offered Him easy ways. I think Christians and churches come face to face with Satan, and we must

be careful that he does not get us to take some of the shortcuts to the kingdom. Men think and believe that here is a worthy goal, and they also are led to believe that here is an easier way. The reasons for temptation, the purpose, is to teach us that there are no shortcuts to the kingdom of God. "Narrow is the way that leadeth to life, and few there be that find it."

And so by summary, another purpose is to identify with humanity. Heb. 2:18 which we have mentioned. Now, the angels did not come to minister unto Christ until he had won the battle over temptation. If Jesus had called upon powers other than human, he would have no message for us. We would not be able to identify with Him and His victory.

It is like the gallant Scottish soldier Montrose. He stripped off his armor, came down from his horse, and led his men into battle on foot as they were carrying the same weapons. So Jesus Christ stepped down from the heights of eternity, and in His temptation was completely and totally man and man alone.

Now, the purpose of this temptation we must recognize. Did Jesus conquer temptation once and for all? No, these temptations in the wilderness were representative of a type of temptation. Luke 4:13 tells us that the tempter departed for a season, implying that he returned to Jesus again. There must have been many temptations beyond this time in which the apostles shared His agony.

Heb. 4:15 tells us that Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Rather than discouraging us, the fact of Jesus continued temptations should give us tremendous inspiration.

We recognize that the battle never seems to be completely won. As

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soon as one victory is over, there is another challenge waiting for us. The devil was trying to get Jesus to come over on his grounds to see things from his viewpoint. He knew that the rest then would be easy.

Now, the temptation of Jesus face to face with the devil here is one of the first big events recorded in the active ministry of Jesus. Immediately following His baptism by John He had felt the presence of the Spirit of God at the time of His baptism, that God was well-pleased with Him in the hour of supreme dedication. Then with terrifying suddenness, Jesus was in the wilderness face to face with the evil one. Here was a time of soul-searching, a time when He was going to be tested by the fire, a time whether or not He was committed to God, and the devil is going to test Him concerning His material values, His worldly methods, His spiritual insight.

I might insert here that this is a common experience for all of us. Sometimes the devil comes upon us in our best moments. He tempts us away from God's ~~ground~~ ground to his ground. He gets us to change our philosophy of life. The devil knows that when he does this, the rest is easy. He gets us to rationalize on everything, and that evil temptation is one of the real and ever-present issues of living. Sir William Grenfell tells about an Irishman who said, "Sure, sir, I can resist anything except one." "And what is that" asked Dr. Grenfell. "'Tis temptaion, your honor."

Now, the temptation of Jesus gives us (valuable insight) into our own problems of life. Before I come directly to these temptations, let me make a few suggestions about the temptations of Jesus.

First, the temptation of Jesus was a (subtle appeal) to his vanity and comfort. The temptation in the wilderness was not ugly, it was not forbidding. It was a real attractive thing, the appeal to the very thing that He was interested in

at that time. The devil took advantage of Jesus being hungry, and talked to Him about turning stones into bread, to work a miracle. And when he took Him to that high tower, he was trying to convince Him that here was an outward sign. He could give Him political power to rule over the earth. All of the designs looked good.

Sweet potato pie - if you want or like chewy pie, come over to my house, my wife just baked one out of artificial fruit!

Now, these are most dangerous temptations. They are ones that come to you, and sometimes you think of them, "Well, this will be for my good." Often the great ones are the most harmless because they come with banners flying, with bands playing, with all the moments in full view of a wonderful life. Now, we better get ready to resist, because the subtle temptations may disguise the whole thing. The temptation may bring about doubt.

Have you ever been tempted? *In This* What do such old-fashioned ideas matter anyway? Oh how the devil comes face to face with people today, and he comes with these honeyed words of self-interest, and he tells us to forget about some of these truthful things and these things of honor. Why they can't buy you happiness or give you social position, and he whispers in your ear that you can't be popular unless you learn to drink liquor. And he argues that success is going to be in a big bank account, without any regard for anybody else, and he comes and he says to you that pleasure is the chief end of life, and the devil always points out these personal satisfactions.

Lawyer father, Thomas Carr, 18 - "we were getting some where with the boy until he came in contact with the drug culture"
Bronchial trouble + informed finger - sentenced 19 yrs. Betting Business man

Such ~~other~~ are the lies men tell themselves, and the devil is behind them. He is right there face to face with them and is going to lead them on into unhappiness. He will tell you that you are going to get something for nothing, you're going to gain something.

He'll try to get you into some outfit to believe that life depends on bread alone. Now, this is true of individuals, it is true of society. Now, the

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mission of Jesus was no economic crusade. His power was not in laws, but in love. He came to rule in hearts of men.

Now, no man can sacrifice the deep convictions which he has in his heart and really meet Satan as he ought.

Now, the next thing about the temptation of Jesus that he faced was that it confronted Him with a personal choice. Now, we are going to see that in a few moments, that the devil here puts the issue before him, and it is a universal and ~~times~~ timeless one. Jesus is confronted with a choice, and it was a form of personal choice. Devil or no devil. There is a decision to be made. There is a fork in the road. There are alternative ideas. You may choose to drift. We may believe or not believe this.

Now, the Christian may reject all of this tempting with compromises. We need to ~~xxx~~ recognize that we are choosing, and we are going to choose that which is just, or that which is unjust, and this is one of the baffling problems of life that all men have to face. The laws and principles are not for time and pass away, when there be no temptation. There will be such moments for you, when your body or your soul rises up in a battle, and you are going to have to decide just what is of value and worth. You are going to have to plant your foot and you are going to have to meet this temptation. Now, it takes courage and will-power, and it is terribly personal and it is sometimes a lonely life.

In 1871, George Jones was made editor of New York Times. During his courageous exposure of the corrupt boss Tweed ring, he was offered a bribe of 5 million dollars to refrain from printing revealing records. He turned it down. The briber said to him, "Why you could take this money and retire to Europe and live like a prince." But he put his foot down; he simply answered, and I imagine

his answer is surprising to most people, who excuse their dishonesty. "Yes, but I ~~would~~ would know that I was a rascal." Now, no matter how we choose, we can't escape ourselves, and choose we must.

Now, let us come directly to look at these temptations of Jesus and discover how He met them and what we can do about the ones we have.

I - The first temptation in the wilderness, v. 2-4. "If thou be the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.

Now, Jesus answered this with Duet. 8:3, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Jesus might have said, "I will never work a miracle in my own behalf. The miracle working power I possess is for the benefit of others." Now, this clearly shows that God often places His people in trying circumstances, perhaps to humble them, to prove them, to ~~would~~ know what is in their hearts in order to see whether or not they will obey Him. Life is not just a matter of food, clothes, and shelter, but it is a matter of fearing God and keeping His commandments. Man shall not live by bread alone. Now, Christ did not say that man shall not live by bread, but He says, alone. While the material may be necessary, it is not the all-sufficient thing as Jesus answered this man. In fact, the supremething that Jesus said to the devil is that a man must live and here is a revelation of human life. The fact that a man does have hunger, but also the fact that there is the spiritual demand which a man needs, that man is not a spirit without a body, but that life has demands absolutely necessary. That every man must have of the earth in order to live. Hunger is the sign of health. The man who lacks hunger, there is something wrong with him. Now, this man in the wilderness 40 days fasted, and everything here could have been resolved in ~~xxxx~~ the simple formula bread, the emblem of His human need. It could have been satisfied if Jesus had just turned these stones into bread.

You remember Belshazzer thought that bread was first when he revelled in the splendor of Babylon and feasted with a thousand of his lords, but God's judgment was, "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting." ~~Now~~ Now, living for bread alone is a problem to the nations as well as individuals. There are nations that live just for commerce, for manufacturing, and their chief end is gain. And there is no evidence of moral or spiritual things.

Dr. Carroll told about an illustration about a pastorate in Waco where he found one of his members keeping a retail liquor shop, and he went and had a conversation with him. "Well, parson," he said, "a man has to live." "Not necessarily," the preacher replied, "it may be best for him to be dead. But it is necessary while he lives to live in God's ways and to trust Him. You cannot serve God in this business." He went on to illustrate how that when the man was converted in his church who had a gambling place and liquor house, when he came to baptize that man, he asked him if he didn't have a word to say about his business. "Oh," he said, "everything I have in the world is in that business. What ought I to say?" The preacher said, "Well, don't look at me. You ask the Lord about it." And so he pulled a key out of his pocket and gave it to a deacon, and he said, "There is the key to my liquor shop. Don't sell any stock, pour it out, lock the door. I will never enter it again while I live." And there was illumination on his face as he followed his Lord in baptism.

Now, the (bread and meat) question can never be answered right apart from our higher relations with God and confidence in His care. "Be not anxious for your life, what you shall eat, what you shall drink, nor for your body what you shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body more than raiment?"

II The second temptation in (the Holy City), V. 5-7. "Then the devil taketh Him to the holy city, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou art the son of God, cast thyself down, for it is written, He shall give

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His angels charge concerning thee, and on their hands they shall bear thee up lest haply thou shalt dash thy foot against a ~~sxxx~~ stone." Jesus said unto him, "Again it is written, thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God."

Now, the scene shifts. They left the wilderness and this is Jerusalem. And this is the temple. They are up on a high and dizzy place looking down, and Satan is with Him. Having failed in the temptation before, he is extremely confident now. Satan seems to say, "You did well to trust God for your food. Now, if you trust God that much, and you quoted some holy scripture," Satan says, "I am going to appeal to some scripture. If you trust God, believe this scripture, and cast thyself down this precipice." And of course he used the scripture from the 91st Psalm, that ~~91st Psalm~~ lofty Psalm in which a man has confidence in God, he is trusting in God, then God will be his refuge and be his fortress, and he will trust in Him. And so Satan puts things together, and he says, "Now, if you really trust God, you just cast yourself off here, and God is going to take care of you. He will meet your spiritual needs and well as your physical needs." In other words, he is encouraging him to (make a venture) into the spiritual and find out. Have you ever had this temptation to come to you? The very temptation to direct your soul in some spiritual realm? *handle snakes etc*

III - Third, the third temptation on the high mountain, V. 8-11. There is the last change of scene. It has shifted from Jerusalem, he has gone now to the wilderness and he has descended the mountain. And in one moment of time he exhibits and Jesus sees the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

But Jesus had an inner eye which was able to see things which are invisible. Now, it will help us to get at the reason of this temptation if we recall the history of Balaam at Numbers 22 - 24 where by changing the place, he was in a new effort trying to get him to curse Israel. Numbers 23:13.

During the Civil War they tell us that Grant's assaults on Lee were similar to these temptations of Jesus. If Grant failed in one point, he rapidly shifted the scene of the battle to another point, calling for a new shift and a readjustment. You know, it is human nature for an army to fight better when it knows and has tried a battle field, and to be stationary there than it is to be subject to disorder and panic when called upon to go to a new, untried field which necessitates rapid change of troops and new plans and new defense and new battle lines.

Now, Jesus was a man, and of course the last temptation touches the very mission of Jesus. He came to fulfill man's original commission to subdue the earth and to exercise dominion over it, and to set up His kingdom in this world.

Now, Satan claimed the world empire, and he ~~also~~ claimed the power to bestow all of this upon Jesus, and so he would have dominion over the entire universe if He should accept this temptation which was put before Him. Every man needs a kingdom. Man asked a garden of Eden and it was brimming full of things and met his needs, and so man was to struggle there and to multiply and to subdue those things.

If you are in the grip of an evil thing and your spirit is being damaged, may God help you, for none other can. And watch the temptations at work, and mark this, the pain of temptation is to be felt. Even children feel the pain of temptation.

I think young people feel this, perhaps someone who is listening to me tonight who has not yielded his life to Christ, who yet aspires after God, and would like to climb the heights, but only yesterday he yielded to some temptation, and the agony of this grips his heart. He has yielded to a temptation, and here is something that is damnable and is killing his soul, and there is remorse that comes into his heart.

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Now, the pattern of these temptations are clear in 1 John 2:16. It is perfect, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life.

1 ✓ First, the lust of the flesh. The first temptation of Jesus to turn the stones to bread. The personal needs of the Saviour, the desire of His hunger. Regardless of how much we try to deny it, the flesh is weak, and we are open to temptation. Satan adds injury to the insult of his temptation when he suggested to Jesus that if he really were the Son of God, he would not have to go hungry. How many times has Satan used the same subtle thing upon you and upon God's people?

If we never learn anything else from Jesus, we certainly ought to learn from his temptation experience and the history of His life and the death that Christianity does not offer or ~~make~~ promise physical advantage. Christianity is a spiritual kingdom. It is not a financial windfall. It is not a universal health club. Satan was dealing with Jesus in a subtle way. If Christ could turn these stones into bread and feed himself, then He could feed the masses. Now we are often tempted to take care of the physical needs of people and neglect the deeper spiritual needs which they have.

2 ✓ The second thing that we see about this pattern of the temptations is the pride of life. This was the second temptation, Jesus to cast Himself down from the temple and let himself be rescued by a band of angels. This would have made a shortcut to the kingdom. How quickly could He have acquired many followers and been a sensational leader by this way.

All His miracles were works of love and mercy, and our temptation today is to make great display of form and splendor and awe to get respect and the following of the world. It may test our sincerity. We are offered a chance sometimes to do things that will never been seen of the world and may never be known by any human being. Now, this is the temptation of the pride of life.

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The third and final pattern in this temptation is the lust of the eye.

To get Him to bow down and He would receive all of the vast kingdoms of the world that spread out before Him. Now this was probably more of a temptation to Jesus than we first think of it as. The temptation of the whole world, to compromise in order to (set up His kingdom). Rome did not really oppose His religion because they had plenty of gods and another god would not hurt. And so sometimes the lust of the eye may be the temptation which we have that comes to us.

In closing, let us discover how Jesus was able to overcome these temptations. Just what was the power behind this that enabled Him to overcome the temptations?

Let us discover the weapons that He used. All human beings can also use them. Let us not be discouraged or indifferent about the simplicity of the answer.

I

First, Jesus overcame His temptations with the Word of God. Now, don't think of that as being so simple and so plain that it doesn't have any application to your own life. When Satan came, Jesus quoted from the scripture. Now we may scoff, and we may call this not the right approach. But this is one of the (solid weapons) against which Satan had no defense. The Word of God is powerful and sharper than a (two-edged sword.) And we are depriving ourselves of this great weapon against temptation that God has placed at our disposal when we refuse to use it.

writings of Lincoln - fight of horrible conflict - wrote "I am am profitably engaged in reading the Bible; By reading this both you will live & die a better man"!

Jesus walked this life by himself just like you, so we must. But we are promised that God is going to go with us, and He is going to give us the strength to overcome. And so He used the Word of God in all three instances. Jesus was countering the claims of the devil with the strong claims of God. Now, even the devil himself is subject to the control and sovereignty of God.

He has the power to lure and tempt, but we can use God's Word and we can be victorious over him.

Let us look further to discover how He entered into this secret and share this power of this triumphant life.

II

"it is written"

Second, He made a positive affirmation of God. He never argued with the tempter, he never set out to logically figure out some steps whereby He could justify His actions, He didn't try to reason about His defense. Jesus just affirmed the reality of God. Every time Satan approached Him, he came back with the affirmation: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God." It is God, God, God. It is God versus the tempter. Every time that He met him.

When Wellington was asked how he expected to push back the army of Napoleon - "Hard Bounding, Day after Day"

You remember this was the way Paul met his temptations, and he affirmed the Lord Jesus Christ. "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded." And again he says, "We know if the earthly house of the tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God." So this is the second great secret here. It is not a matter of "if's, and and's, and but's". These things are confusing.

III

In the third place, He surrendered His life to the service of God's will. Jesus says, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and serve Him." Now, I think this is your answer when temptation comes to you. It is that you will give your life to a larger consecration, that you will make a great commitment and put everything and abandon all for sacrifice and to declare yourself for Him.

Woman resort hotel - roched - followed funds in their climb Mt. - all followed them all the way (she followed their progress) - Jesus, not mean that - do some service each day

IV

Now, in the fourth place, we shall be able to turn away Satan and the temptation if we will use the method of Jesus when He said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Now when Jesus said that, then the angels came and ministered to Him.

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Remember this, you are not going to be able to hide from the tempter. And remember this, none of us are wise enough, none of us are strong enough to master the tempter without divine help. We ought to thank God that we do not have to go it alone.

Dr. Campbell Morgan - London - young man who - been leading dissipated life - few months - missed a service, more - Dr. Morgan went to ^{his} room to see him - what are you here for to yourself - we missed you at church

"I have tried Christianity & it is a failure" -

London - Singing the Lord pictures over mantel & throwing them into the fire, Pastor said "How dare you expect me to become a real Christian unless you burn your bridges behind you"

Voice of Satan had been strong & that young man not resisted! -