

# How the Devil Tempted Jesus

Luke 4:1-12

## Introduction:

- A. The Devil is real — neither myth nor abstraction.
  - 1. Has personality — “himself” (2 Cor. 11:14).
  - 2. Conversed with Jesus (vv. 4, 6, 9, 13).
- B. The Devil tried to take advantage three important areas of life.

## Discussion:

### I. Natural Appetite.

- A. Satan appealed to the hunger of Jesus — a legitimate bodily function (vv. 3,4).
  - 1. God gave things needed to maintain life on earth: hunger, thirst, reproduction.
  - 2. God gave moral laws to check and direct these — sets us apart from animals. (2 Pet. 2:12-14)
- B. Jesus answered, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone...” (v. 4).
  - 1. To live by bread alone is to satisfy hunger by any means. (cf. 2 Thess. 3:8-12; Eph 4:28).
  - 2. To live by word is to please God in satisfying their needs (cf. Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 7:5-11; Matt. 5:28)

### II. Human Pride.

- A. Satan offered “glory” and “power” — what prestige! (v. 6).
  - 1. Souls sold for “honor,” “glory,” “power,” and “prestige” — want to impress men.
  - 2. Sin marketed under false labeling: “Distinction,” “sophistication,” and “culture.”
  - 3. Sin excused because we think too much to expect one to forgo such benefits.
- B. Jesus answers, “It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, ...”
  - 1. Must not worship or deify anything (Phil. 3:19; Matt. 6:24).
  - 2. Must not worship or deify anyone.

### III. Religious Faith.

- A. Satan tried to use the Bible to get an advantage (vv. 9-11).
  - 1. He would have us emphasize one passage to exclusion of another.
    - a. John 3:16 to exclusion of Mark 16:16).
    - b. Eph. 2:8,9 to exclusion of Jas. 2:24).
    - c. 1 Pet. 5:3 to exclusion of 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17).
  - 2. He will use great Bible principles to promote his agenda.
    - a. Promotes *unforgiveness* in the name of *purity* (cf. 2 Cor. 2:5-11)
    - b. Promotes *contentiousness* in the name of “*contending for the faith.*” (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4).
    - c. Promotes *compromise* in the name *unity* (cf. Gal. 2:5).
    - d. Promotes *doctrinal softness* in the name of *love*.
    - e. Promotes *lowered standards* in the name of *growth*.
- B. Jesus answers, “It is written again ...” (Matt 4:7) — put things into focus and balance.

## Conclusion:

- A. If you are tempted to remain in sin — It is written how to escape.
- B. If you are a Christian — It is written how to live and resist the devil.