

## **Sermon 14 Feb 2021**

Good Day All,

Today will be the last of the sermons I send out on e-mail as we are opening the Church next Sunday 21 Feb. It is going to be so good to see you all again.

### **The temptation of Jesus.**

#### **Luke 4:1-12**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone'" Luke 4:1-4

#### **1. Jesus was tempted with His Trust.**

Jesus, the Son of God, was being led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness by the authority of the Father to be tested. This had to happen because if Jesus had fallen into temptation, salvation for us would have not been possible and His sacrifice on the cross would have meant nothing. The Bible is clear that Jesus was tempted in every way and that He was perfect and free from sin. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin."

It was necessary for Jesus to be tempted before entering His public ministry, of preaching, healing and going to Calvary. What Jesus suffered in the wilderness would have killed a normal human being. At the end of forty days he must have been quite weak and His body must have been desperate for food. It was at this point that Satan approached Him and said, "If you are the son of God, command these stones to become bread" This is the moment when Jesus would be His most vulnerable that Satan tempts Him with food. It is certainly not a sin to eat food when you are hungry. It would hardly be a sin for Jesus to perform this miracle. Satan was attempting to get Jesus to distrust God to provide for Him.

Satan goes after our weakness and we have all been tempted somewhere along the way to distrust God's love. How often don't we doubt when things are not going well, that God still cares and whether He will provide. We may be tempted to say If God really loves me why does he allow me to have cancer, why is my marriage in trouble, why are my kids addicted to drugs?

The only thing Satan can do to you is to deceive you into believing that God does not love you and that you are not worthy of His love. One thing of a mature Christian is contentment and total dependence on God. Therefore do not worry saying "What

shall we eat"? or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" Matthew 6:31. "But Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33. And God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19.

## **2. Jesus was tempted with His Worship.**

Luke says, "Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only'". Luke 4:5-8

Having failed to persuade Jesus to doubt God's love for Him, Satan decided to try something else. He led Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him the Kingdoms of the world and said I will give you all this as it has been given to me to give away. This is really nonsense as the Kingdoms of the world don't belong to him but to God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God".

Satan has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is in image of God. The message Satan is sending, is you will have all your wants and desires just worship him. It is the same today, countless are being deceived by his lie. There are people who live and worship the world system Satan has put in place. The idea that we need something more than salvation through the cross is put into our minds by Satan. It is that we want wealth, new cars, bigger houses etc. and that these things are more important than salvation. In all these things our hearts become hardened to the things of God and hungry for satisfying our lusts, our greed, and our pleasures.

What Satan is telling Jesus is that if He follows him He can bypass the cross. He was saying distrust God's plan as he told Eve to do in the Garden of Eden. Take an easier way it's not this big a deal after all God wants you to be happy. Deuteronomy 6:13 says, "Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oath in his name"

The word Satan uses to worship is proskuneo, which means literally "kiss the ground". What is your standard? Do you feel willing to compromise your fear of God to kiss the ground of your job, your home, your possessions. Our pride will lead us away from our worship – this happens so often. There is no short cut when it comes to our service to God. He must get the first fruits of our lives.

## **3. Jesus was tempted with signs and wonders.**

Luke 4:9-12 says, “The devil led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written” 'He will command the angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone”’. In Deuteronomy we read that you should not put your Lord to the test.

Satan is very clever for he says, “For it is written”, Satan knows the Bible very well and knows how to twist Bible passages out of context. Sadly many people will accept anyone who quotes the Bible without checking as to if it has been quoted correctly- and so get misled. The use of Bible verses does not necessarily convey the will of God.

Satan's strategy is that he will tempt us to distrust the love of God; he will tempt us to distrust the plan of God and this to compromise with sin to get what we think we need and deserve and want. As soon as we have had a spiritual high and have heard from God, you will be hit by the biggest temptation. Be careful when you are weak or when you are in evil surroundings Satan will be there ready to tempt you. Jesus responds again from Deuteronomy and says “You shall not put your Lord to the test”.

How do you defeat Satan? The same way Jesus defeated him, with Scripture. We must be committed to knowing, studying and living a life saturated in Scripture. When you do, God will provide you with the escape to be an overcomer

It is not always easy to live the Christian life that Jesus prescribes, but he never promised that it would be. We received no guarantee that we would not experience temptation or trials. On the contrary, Jesus warns of serious consequences that we will face after coming to faith in him.

However, once you have decided to follow Christ, you can find comfort, strength and knowledge that Jesus who experienced and understands trials and temptations Himself will always be there to guide you in your daily walk with Him.

Amen