

JUST SAY NO! / Sunday School- May 4, 2014

Unifying Topic: JESUS RESISTS TEMPTATION

Lesson Text

I. The Standard Is Set (Deuteronomy 6:13-16)

II. It Is Written (Matthew 4:4-7)

III. Worship God Only (Matthew 4:8-11)

The Main Thought: But he answered and said, Is it written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4), (KJV).

Unifying Principle: In a world that offers countless ways to satisfy their lusts and appetites, discipline is required to maintain high ethical and moral standards. What helps people stick to their principles when other opinions tempt them? Jesus' thought knowledge of Scripture gave Him strength to withstand difficult temptations.

Lesson Aim: To teach of ways to overcome temptations by studying the example of Jesus.

Life Aim: To study God's Word, understand the power of God's Word and use God's Word to live honorable lives and resist temptation.

6:13 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

6:14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

6:15 (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth

6:16 YE shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

HISTORY:

¹God had founded a new nation in the Israelites. He had released them from bondage in Egypt. This nation was to be different from their neighbors around them. They would have no earthly king. Their King was the LORD; their laws were not man made. There were laws, judgments, and statutes (known as the Ten Commandments) established by God; under His direct leadership through Moses. Moses was to teach the people the commandments God had set down for them to live by. They were to establish their new land on these principles of God. They were to diligently teach these Laws to their children. ²This 6 chapter provides the central theme. It sets a pattern that helps us relate the Word of God to our daily lives. The law was given so that the people could express their reverence for, and obedience to the Lord. By fearing and obeying Him they would find prosperity and a long life in their new land. Moses warns the people not to forget God when they enter the Promised Land and become prosperous (v.v. 10-13). There is a big danger in prosperity, because when a person prospers he tends to forget God (Proverbs 30:7-9). Prosperity more than poverty, tends to dull our spiritual vision. Furthermore, Moses explains that the key to teaching your children to love God and to follow Him is that you must make God a part of your everyday experience.

LESSON:

Deuteronomy 6:13-16 The Standard Is Set

6:13 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Fear is the first step in not forgetting God, and service is the second. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"* Prov. 1:7a; and *"The fear of the Lord is*

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/deuteronomy/08.html>

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-greatest-commandment/>
<http://pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

the beginning of wisdom" Prov.9:10a. This fear is reverence, respect, awe, and devotion unto Him. When giving such things unto God will always cause one to serve Him. Then thirdly, one is able to swear allegiance unto His name.

6:14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;— That meant that they were not to worship any false gods; especially the gods that the people already living in the land were worshipping. Why is that? Because there was only One true God and they were to love and serve Him alone. Being exposed to, they would be fooled by unrighteous teaching that would lead them astray from God's righteousness and truth. He had already given them warning.

6:15 (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth. Again why?, Because God is a jealous God with an anger that would be ignited against those who dishonor Him. Those false gods did not demand the high standards that God would declare from His people. God is able and will destroy those who dishonor Him with false gods.

6:16 YE shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah. When they did not believe Moses whom God sent to lead His people, they tempted God with disobedience and unbelief. The tempter, being Satan does not do His dirty work himself, but he does it through others. The tempter came to Jesus in the wilderness to jump off a high place to prove He was God. ³"Massah" means trial, or temptation. In this particular place, it is speaking of the place where they murmured about the lack of water. Another name for this place is Meribah. Exodus 17:7 *"And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?"* So therefore, God's people are not to be agents of the tempter to ensnare or challenge Him to fuel their ill-will.

Matthew 4:4-7 It Is Written

4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. In Verse 3 the tempter came to Jesus and said, *"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."* The tempter can only tempt, appeal, or entice; not force. Maturity does not exempt a person from temptation. **Jesus' first temptation** (vv.3-4) was for Him to use His power to meet a personal hunger. This is the first of three temptations that came to Him. He could have fed Himself because of who He was. Men would rush to serve any man who could meet their physical and material needs. However, Jesus would have failed His purpose if He had done what the enemy commanded. Jesus was alone and hungry. He may have seemed defenseless when the devil came to Him with this temptation, but He was not. He was packing a massive broad sword, the Word of God (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). **Every time the devil attacked with a temptation, Jesus quoted the Word of God to repel the attack:**

1. The devil said, *"You're hungry, so turn these stones into bread."* Jesus' words (4:4) came from *Deut.8:3* by saying *"...Man shall not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live."*

Saints, the Word of God is your offensive weapon against the devil. God has given it to us to wage war against tests and temptations.

4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,— This is the **second temptation** (vv.5-7) the devil brings to Jesus to prove His deity through spectacularism; so the devil thinks. The worshipers at the temple, seeing such an event would then accept and proclaim Him to be the Son of God. The holy city was Jerusalem and the pinnacle of the temple was the highest point on the top of the temple which overlooked the lowest valley on one of its sides making for a height of around 700 feet.

4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Satan knew scripture and certainly knew how to twist it around. He says **if or whether** you be the Son of God... (trying to put doubt). It is possible to know the scripture and not know God. It is also possible to know the scripture and stand against God; abusing and misusing His Word. The thing that's wrong with this reasoning of the devil, is that God is not to be tested or tried (*that is, to attempt to ensnare Christ; challenging God to sin*). In Acts 5:9 Ananias and Sapphira tried to tempt the Spirit of the Lord. *"But Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?"* This is not something we want to be caught doing.

³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/deuteronomy/08.html>

<http://pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

While in contrast, God is to be trusted and He wants men to believe Him because they love Him as their Father, not for any other reason. God would have failed if He had given in to this temptation. This would have had the people's attention centered on the spectacular, instead of faith in God. The power of Satan is limited. He can only tempt. He could not push Christ off the pinnacle and he cannot push or force us to sin. We really have power! **Therefore, if a person is living in communion with God and living in God's Word, he will be stirred to obey God more than he is stirred to yield to the temptation.**

2. The devil said, "Jump off this high place to prove that God's angels will protect you."

4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. While Satan wants to half quote the Scripture (Ps.91:11-12) to Jesus, Jesus lets him know again— "It is Written!" He can't tempt; he can't put God to the test. Jesus' words (4:7) came from **Deut.6:16** "YE shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah." The written word is truth.

Matthew 4:8-11 Worship God Only

4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;— The third temptation (vv.8-10) was the temptation to secure the world without the cross, without paying the price. That means He was tempted to choose another way instead of God's Way. He was tempted to compromise His life and His loyalty—switch loyalties; to prove His deity by compromise.

3. The devil said, "Take the easy way out, and I'll give you the kingdoms of the world" vv.8-9.

Did Satan have the power to give Jesus the kingdoms of the world? No! He can trick a person by distorting truth. Satan is still doing that today by enticing unsuspecting and immature people with materialism and sensationalism. Evidently, Satan failed to understand or didn't know that Jesus came to take back all that was stolen from man, and surely not to give His allegiance to Satan; but He came to destroy the works of the enemy.

Four significant lessons at this point:

1. A believer is often tempted to compromise (his life and his work or ministry). The tempter, Satan wants a person to live for him and the world only.
2. Satan deceives and lies. The kingdoms of this world are only temporary—for a few short years. It ends.
3. Believers cannot receive from Satan what God has promised them—eternal life.
4. Temptation must be resisted immediately. Jesus did not hesitate a moment in resisting temptation.

4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Jesus was offered the world and the sovereign leadership of the world, if He would just do one thing: worship the devil. What does this mean? It means that Christ would have been tempted to allow the world (including man) to remain corruptible and dying with no hope of life eternal with God. There are two things wrong with Satan's reasoning behind the temptation:

1. Compromise with the devil and the world would not be God's way. God's way is to conquer the corruption and death of this world.
2. God alone is to be worshiped, not the devil nor the world nor its power.

If Christ would have given into this temptation, He would have failed: Because He would have secured the kingdom of this world through compromise, not by God's plan. He would have switched His loyalty from God to the devil. God's Word truly tells us: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt.16:26. There was no worshipping the devil.

4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Enough was enough. It was time to put the devil into his right place of who was to be worshiped. "Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" Phil.2:10. Jesus' words (4:10) came from **Deut.6:13** "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name." Jesus resisted the temptation the only way He knows!—by quoting exactly what the Word of God says, for He is the "Word", and that is exactly what would come from Him! He's simply saying the Word works!!! He simply obeyed God. Therefore, the devil couldn't withstand the power of God's spoken Word. Yes, you have to speak it! You might think, well, Jesus was special. Yes, but He has given us that same power to reside in us! We follow His example!

4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. There was the triumphant victory. The end result of Jesus' successful battle was threefold: (1) Jesus spoke the Word; (2) the devil left Him; and (3) the angels ministered to Him! James 4:7 says "Submit therefore to God (**Obey through His Word**). Resist the devil (**Obey by speaking the Word**) and he will flee from you (**his obedience to the Word of God causes him to flee**)." After the devil leaves, "angels came and ministered unto Jesus." Jesus never got out of the Will of God; therefore, the devil couldn't break Him. And you might

say, 'I'm nobody, what makes you think that I would ever qualify to be ministered to by angels?' Well, the writer of Hebrews 1:14 says "...all ministering spirits, are they not sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" Well, we are accounted to inherit this salvation that Christ gave His life for; that qualifies us.

Four clear lessons are seen in these temptations.

1. Temptation often attacks an area of desperate need such as hunger.
2. Temptation is to be resisted by using the Word of God.
3. When needs arise, be strengthened in God's presence and plan alone, not your own.
4. Trust that the enemy will flee by the Spirit's Power.

SUMMARY:

When the time will come for the Israelites to go into the land flowing with milk and honey, they will be required to reverence the Lord, serve Him, and use His Name. They are not to go after other gods; they are not to entertain other gods; not worship as the neighboring nations. God had set the standard to follow. His jealousy would destroy them off the face of the earth for they had sworn to love, serve, and swear by His Name. God is the only True God to worship. And they were not to tempt God as they did in Massah (**Deut.6:13-16**).

Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Spirit. He didn't eat anything for 40days and 40nights. Satan, the devil, the tempter came to Jesus with three temptations.

THE TEPMTATION:	THE SOLUTION: IT IS WRITTEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turn these stones into bread (tempting the flesh). 2. Cast Yourself down from this pinnacle (tempting the pride of life; fame). 3. Fall down and worship me, the devil (tempting the lust of the eyes-can have it all). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God 4:4. 2. Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God 4:7. 3. Get thee hence...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve 4:10.

Jesus does not hesitate on any. He says, 'IT IS WRITTEN!' The primary focus is doing the Will of God when tempted by the enemy—not to compromise. It therefore shows you, who you are and who God is. It showed Jesus, who was both God and man, that resisting the enemy, can be done; not in our power alone but in the power of His might Eph.6:10.

As a man, He was filled with the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove Matt.316). As a man He confessed the Word of God (It is written Matt.4). As a man, He was hungered (fasted 40days and 40 nights Matt.4:2). As a man, He prayed and kept in constant contact with the Father.

Every trial and temptation is for our learning and example because at the end the devil had to leave. When He said away from me Satan, Satan had to leave. When He endured the temptations, and didn't give in, Satan had to leave. When He submitted first to God and resisted the devil, the devil had to flee. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it" 1Corth.10:13. God always has someone to minister to us in our time of need. Jesus did not minister to Himself. —"...Behold, angels came and ministered unto him" Matt.4:11. This was a time of complete exhaustion for Jesus. As the enemy departs, he departs for a season, meaning that there would be other temptations. But for now we have the victory because of Jesus! One of the blessings of having Jesus as our Savior is His ability to comfort and aid those who are tempted. He is sympathetic, and can provide mercy and grace to help in the time of need (Heb. 4:14-16). This is because He too was tempted (Heb. 2:18). (**Matt.4:4-11**).

APPLICATION:

The devil will try to trick you into doing what he wants you to do? If he tried with Jesus, he will try with us. When he does, do what Jesus did, answer with Scripture.

Remember, adhering to the temptation is a sin. Are you going to inherit salvation? Well the way you can know, is that the Bible says in, Rom. 10:9-11 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

Maybe life has offered you a lot of disappointments. Jesus never will. He died to pay the price of your sin, and then rose from the dead, and is alive today. If you believe Him, repent, and be baptized; you will inherit salvation. Now, tell others of your belief. You will need to inherit salvation before facing the temptations of life. The Lord gives us His Holy Spirit to be our guide, strengthener, and consoler in temptation and testing. Our "No" to Satan is a "Yes" to Jesus Christ! Praise God!