

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 1

Jesus: Tempted Yet Without Sin

Tempted Yet Without Sin

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To show the students that Christ was tempted, just as we are, yet was without sin. Therefore His sacrifice was acceptable for the forgiveness of all.

Key Verses

Matthew 4:1-11—Main Teaching Passage

Hebrews 4:15

Luke 23:4

Memory Verse - Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 2 Timothy 2:8.

As a class, write down on the board everything the students know about Jesus. If the students give the answer "He was sinless," stop the activity and begin. If students do not offer this after some time, ask them, "Did Jesus ever sin?"

Then ask, "Why is it important that Jesus never sinned?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Matthew 4 Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He was met by none other than Satan himself. Satan tempted Christ in three ways. First he tempted Christ to act of His own accord. In John 12:49-50, Jesus said that He only spoke what the Father told Him to, and He only went where the Father directed. Satan here was attempting to pull Jesus out of God's will by acting individually, denying His own nature.

Second, Satan attempted to cause Jesus to doubt the Word of God. Satan took Christ to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and directed Him to "trust God and His Word" by quoting Psalm 91:11 and directing Christ to throw Himself of the building. Third, Satan offered Christ the whole world and everything in it, if only He will bow down and worship the Devil. Christ answered every temptation by leaning on the Word of God and trusting in His Heavenly Father.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

One of the greatest things that the Bible tells us about Jesus is that He is sinless. This is important for several reasons, but the most important one is this: if Christ had committed even one sin, His death on the cross would have been meaningless. If there had been one single moment of sin in Christ's life, then His death would have been justified and our sins would still be unforgiven.

The Bible tells us that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22), and in Romans 6:23 it tells us that "the wages of sin is death." In other words, for every sin that has ever been committed, the appropriate punishment for that sin is death. That is why in the Old Testament, sheep and goats were sacrificed at the altar. Sin had been committed, and the wage or penalty of sin is death, but the people who committed those sins wanted to be forgiven by God. So God allowed the people to offer a substitute in their place, in this case a sheep or a goat. When Christ came into the world, He became the fulfillment of the law. He proclaimed from the cross, "It is finished." His perfect, sinless death was sufficient to pay for the sin of all people, for all time. There would be no more need for the sacrifice of animals because sin had already been paid for. If Christ's life had not been perfect, His death would not have been sufficient to pay for the sin of every human being in the whole world.

LOOK (Continued)

In Matthew 4, we see an account of Christ being tempted in the wilderness by Satan and being able to overcome that temptation. In Luke 23:4, when Jesus is standing on trial before Pilate, we see Pilate declare that Jesus is innocent of all charges, that Pilate could “find no fault in Him.” In Hebrews 4:15, our memory verse, we are told that Jesus was tempted in all ways, just as we are, yet was without sin. Because He lived a sinless life, His sacrifice is enough to pay the penalty for our sin, so that if we accept the work that He has done for us we can be forgiven.

Hebrews 4:15 tells us something else incredible as well. It tells us that because Christ has suffered temptation, and gone through the same struggles that we have gone through, He sympathizes with our struggle and understands how we feel when we mess up. Jesus knows what you and I are going through in our daily struggle with sin and temptation, and thankfully there is one more thing that His sinless life enables us to do.

Jesus not only died a rose again for the atonement of our sin, but also gifted us with the Holy Spirit. Now because Christ lives in us, we have the ability to overcome temptation and live victorious lives in Him. He tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” Christ lived a sinless life so that we could be eternally forgiven for our sins, and He left us with the Holy Spirit so that we could live faithfully and victoriously here while we await His return.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Hebrews 4:15.

Ask the class if there have been any times that God helped them to overcome temptation and not to sin. Instruct the class that if there is something specific that they are really struggling with, to seek the Lord every morning and ask Him to help them that day, with that specific issue.

Pray: Praise Jesus for living a sinless life. Ask Him to help us to resist sin and temptation in our own lives.

Parent Question: Why is it important that Christ never sinned?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 4:1-10 by David Guzik

Matthew 4 - The Temptation of Jesus and His First Galilean Ministry

A. Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.

1. (1-2) Jesus is led to the place of temptation.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

a. **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted:** After identifying with sinners in His baptism, Jesus then identified with them again in severe temptation. This was a necessary part of His ministry, so He truly was **led up by the Spirit into the wilderness**.

i. It was a remarkable contrast between the glory following Jesus' baptism and the challenge **to be tempted by the devil**.

- Then the cool waters of the Jordan; now the barren wilderness.
- Then the huge crowds; now solitude and silence.
- Then the Spirit rests like a dove; now the Spirit drives Him into the wilderness.
- Then the voice of the Father calling Him "Beloved Son"; now the hiss of Satan the tempter.
- Then anointed; now attacked.
- Then the water of baptism; now the fire of temptation.
- First the heavens opened; now hell.

ii. Jesus did not need to be tempted to help Him grow. Instead, He endured temptation both so that He could identify with us (Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15), and to demonstrate His own holy, sinless character.

iii. The Holy Spirit cannot tempt us (James 1:13), but the Holy Spirit may lead us to a place where we will be tempted. This is not to prove something to God (who knows all things), but to prove something to us and to the spiritual beings watching us.

b. **Tempted by the devil:** Temptation is a certainty for everyone. Yet Jesus' temptation was more severe. It was more severe because He was tempted directly by **the devil** himself, while we contend mainly with lesser demons. It was also more severe because there is a sense in which temptation is "relieved" by giving in, and Jesus never did yield. Therefore He bore levels of temptation we will never know by experience.

i. Many commentators believe it is improper to refer to this section as the *temptation* of Jesus, because the word *peirazo* is more often and more accurately translated *testing* instead of temptation. "*Peirazein* has a quite different element in its meaning. It means *to test* far more than it means *to tempt* in our sense of the

word." (Barclay)

ii. "Luther's remark stands true, that prayer, meditation, and temptation, are the three best instructors of the gospel minister." (Spurgeon)

c. **He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry:** Matthew points out both the barren desert (the Judean **wilderness** was and is exactly that), and Jesus' severe physical condition after such a long fast. It is said that when hunger pains return after such a fast (**He was hungry**), it indicates the subject is beginning to starve to death.

i. "Here was the Divine power miraculously seen, in upholding the human nature of Christ without any thing to eat: this was a miracle." (Poole) Yet it was a miracle also evident in the lives of Moses (Exodus 34:28) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8). It was supernatural, but not beyond human capacity when enabled by the Spirit of God.

d. **Forty days and forty nights:** This is a familiar period of testing in the Bible, both in the days of Noah and for Israel in the wilderness. Jesus will succeed where Israel as a nation failed.

i. "Our Saviour was tempted all that forty days' space, saith St. Luke; but these three worst assaults were reserved to the last."

ii. This wasn't self-denial just for the sake of self-denial, or worse yet for the sake of building spiritual pride. This was a period of forced dependence upon God the Father. We remember: *He learned obedience through the things which He suffered* (Hebrews 5:8).

2. (3-4) The first temptation: an appeal to the lust of the flesh.

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

a. **When the tempter came:** Notice that Matthew writes **when the tempter came**. In our lives, it is not a question of *if* the tempter will come, but **when** he will come. We will face temptation until we go to glory.

i. "But let us do what we will, we shall be tempted. God had one Son without sin, but he never had a son without temptation." (Spurgeon)

ii. We should consider the circumstances that preceded the temptation of Jesus:

- He was in an especially devout frame of mind before His temptation.
- He was engaged in an act of public obedience to His Father's will before His temptation.
- He was in an exceedingly humble frame of mind before His temptation.
- He was blessed by a heavenly assurance of His Sonship before His temptation.
- He was filled with the Holy Spirit before His temptation.
- He was completely separated from the world before His temptation.

b. **If You are the Son of God:** The question asked by Satan is more literally "*since You are the Son of God,*" instead of "*if You are the Son of God.*" Satan did not question Jesus' deity; he challenged Him to prove it or demonstrate it through miraculous works.

c. **Command that these stones become bread:** This was a temptation to use God's gifts for selfish purposes. Satan suggested that Jesus use His miraculous powers to provide food for Himself.

i. "Sonship of the living God, he suggested, surely means Jesus has the power and right to satisfy his own needs." (Carson)

ii. This wasn't a temptation to miraculously create great riches or luxuries, only **bread**. The Bible has many accounts of miraculous provision, some at the hands of Jesus. Yet Jesus would not **command that these stones become bread**, especially at the instigation of Satan.

iii. We might say that Jesus was being tested through His strengths, through His gifts. Would He allow His strengths to become traps? "He bids the Lord prove his Sonship by catering for himself; and yet that would have been the surest way to prove that he was not the Son of God." (Spurgeon) We could say that the same temptation came to Jesus on the cross (Matthew 27:40).

d. **But He answered**: Jesus didn't silently disagree with Satan, **He answered** him - and He answered him from the Word of God. When Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, Jesus shows that **every word that proceeds from the mouth of God** should be more precious to us than food itself.

i. What Satan suggested made sense - "Why starve yourself to death?" But what **is written** makes even more sense.

ii. "Hunger represents human wants, and the question was: whether Sonship was to mean exemption from these, or loyal acceptance of them as part of the Messiah's experience." (Bruce)

iii. It isn't that Jesus refused supernatural help in feeding Himself; He was more than happy to eat what the angels brought Him when the time of testing was over (Matthew 4:11). It wasn't a matter of refusing supernatural help; it was a matter of submitting to His Father's timing and will in all things.

e. **It is written**: By relying on the power and truth of God's Word, Jesus was willing to fight this battle as a man; He could have easily rebuked Satan into another galaxy, but resisted him in a way that we can imitate and identify with.

i. Jesus used *Scripture* to battle Satan's temptation, not some elaborate spiritual power inaccessible to us. Jesus fought this battle as fully man, and He drew on no "special resources" unavailable to us. "Out flashed the sword of the Spirit: our Lord will fight with no other weapon. He could have spoken new revelations, but chose to say, '*It is written.*'" (Spurgeon)

ii. He could have stood against Satan with a display of His own glory; He could have stood against Satan with logic and reason. Instead, Jesus used the word of God as a weapon against Satan and temptation.

- He used a weapon that one can use when they are all alone.
- He used a weapon to defend His Sonship.
- He used a weapon to defeat temptation.
- He used a weapon that was effective because He *understood it*.

ii. We effectively resist temptation in the same way Jesus did: by countering Satan's seductive lies by shining the light of God's truth upon them. If we are ignorant of God's truth, we are poorly armed in the fight against temptation.

3. (5-7) The second temptation: an appeal to the pride of life.

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written

again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'

a. **If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down:** Satan tempted Jesus to "force" the Father into a supernatural event. Satan appealed to the desire within every man to sense approval from God and to have that approval publicly demonstrated.

i. **Set Him on the pinnacle of the temple:** The **pinnacle of the temple** arose some 200 feet from the floor of the Kidron Valley. A leap from there, and the appearance of the promised angelic protection, would be a remarkable spectacle.

ii. "The devil's suggestions was of an artificially created crisis, not of trusting God in the situations which result from obedient service." (France)

iii. "This was the very method that the false Messiahs who were continually arising promised...These pretenders had offered sensations which they could not perform. Jesus could perform anything he promised. Why should he not do it?" (Barclay)

iv. Jesus just had this kind of spectacular demonstration at His baptism (Matthew 3:17), but that must have seemed far away after forty days and nights of fasting in the wilderness.

b. **For it is written:** The devil can use this phrase also. We can trust that the devil has memorized the Bible himself, and is an expert at quoting it out of its context to confuse and defeat those he tempts. Here the devil quoted Psalm 91:11-12, and took it out of its context to say, "Go ahead, Jesus; if You do this the Bible promises angels will rescue You, and it will be spectacular self-promotion."

i. "Satan borrowed our Lord's weapon, and said, '*It is written*'; but he did not use the sword lawfully. It was not in the nature of the false fiend to quote correctly. He left out the necessary words, 'in all thy ways': thus he made the promise say what in truth it never suggested." (Spurgeon)

· This text is *falsely quoted*, because the devil left out the words, "*To keep you in all your ways.*" To test God in this way was *not* of Jesus' way; it was not of the way of the Savior or Messiah. "God had never promised, nor ever given, any protection of angels in sinful and forbidden ways." (Poole)

· This text is *wrongly applied*, because it was not used to teach or encourage, but instead to deceive. "Making this word a promise to be fulfilled upon Christ's neglect of his duty; extending the promise of special providence as to dangers into which men voluntarily throw themselves." (Poole)

ii. Jesus understood from His knowledge of the *whole counsel of God* (Acts 20:27) that Satan was twisting this passage from Psalm 91. Jesus knew how to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Sadly, many are willing to believe anyone who quotes from the Bible today. A preacher can pretty much say whatever he wants if he quotes a few proof-texts, and people will assume that he really speaks from the Bible. It is important for each Christian to know the Bible for themselves, and not to be deceived by someone who quotes the Bible but not accurately or with correct application.

c. **It is written again, "You shall not tempt the LORD your God."** Jesus replied with Scripture, but applied correctly. He knew that attempting to force or manipulate God the Father into such a demonstration would **tempt** God, which the Scriptures strictly forbid.

i. This warns us against demanding something spectacular from God to prove His love or concern for us. He has already given the ultimate demonstration of His love for us at the cross (Romans 5:8), and He can do nothing more "spectacular" than that.

ii. "The focus is again on his relationship to God. As Son of God, he could surely claim with absolute confidence

the physical protection which God promises in Psalm 91:11-12...The Son of God can live only in a relationship of trust which needs no test." (France)

4. (8-10) The third temptation: an appeal to the lust of the eyes.

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

a. **All these things I will give You:** Essentially, this vision invited Jesus to take a shortcut around the cross. Jesus came to win **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory** back from Satan's domain, and Satan offers them to Jesus, if He will only **fall down and worship** him.

i. It again may seem a small thing; Jesus could lay claim to **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**, and do so without enduring the cross. "The danger is greatest when the end is *good*." (Bruce)

ii. All He would have to do is give Satan what he has been longing for ever since he fell from glorious to profane: **worship** and recognition from God Himself. This is a revealing insight into Satan's heart; worship and recognition are far more precious to him than the possession of **the kingdoms of the world and their glory**. He is still the one who said *I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.* (Isaiah 14:13-14)

iii. "If the words, *all the kingdoms of the world*, be taken in a literal sense, then this must have been a visionary representation, as the highest mountain on the face of the globe could not suffice to make evident even one hemisphere of the earth, and the other must of necessity be in darkness." (Clarke)

iv. If we can't exactly say how Satan showed Jesus this, we can say with some certainty what Satan *did not* show Jesus: "Satan offers the kingdoms of the world and their 'splendor' without showing their sin." (Carson)

b. **I will give You:** Evidently, Satan *has* authority over this world and its governments. The temptation could not have been real unless there is some real sense that Satan does "possess" **all the kingdoms of the world and their glory**.

i. Adam and his descendants gave the devil this authority. God gave Adam the earth as a stewardship (Genesis 1:28-30), and Adam willingly turned it over to Satan. After that, all Adam's descendants cast their vote of approval by their personal sin.

ii. Of course, ultimately, all things belong to God; but God allows Satan to function as *the god of this age* (2 Corinthians 4:4) for a purpose. This is why the fallen world is in the mess it is.

iii. "The tempter does not dare to mention Sonship in this case; for that would have laid the blasphemous suggestion too bare. No son of God can worship the devil." (Spurgeon)

c. **Away with you, Satan! For it is written:** Jesus replied with Scripture again, and commanded the devil to leave. In the same way we can *resist the devil and he will flee from you* (James 4:7). It worked for Jesus (**Then the devil left Him**) and it will work for us.

i. "The word of God hath a power in it to quail and to quash Satan's temptations, far better than that wooden dagger, that leaden sword of the Papists, their holy water, crossings, grains, dirty relics...It is not the sign of

the cross, but the word of the cross, that overthrows Satan." (Trapp)

ii. The temptations of Jesus also remind us that *it is no sin to be tempted, as long as the temptation is resisted*. Even horrible temptations - Jesus was tempted to worship Satan - are not in themselves sin if they are resisted.