

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 6: How to Triumph over Temptation

Big Question: Is it possible to overcome temptation in my life daily?

Luke 4:1-13 (NKJV); **Satan Tempts Jesus**

⁴ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you,'

¹¹ and,

'In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

How to Triumph over Temptation. 4 Timeless Truths that will help you overcome temptation:

1. You are most susceptible after a great _____ in your life (v. 1).

- Jesus had just had a mountain top experience:
- Throughout the Bible, people often experience a great trial following a great triumph.

Case Study #1: _____-He had just received his coat of many colors from his father Jacob. He had just had heavenly visions about a glorious future where he would be in a position of prominence over his family.

What happened after this great high? Joseph was thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, falsely accused of rape, and then sent to prison as an innocent victim.

The Result: Joseph successfully passed the trials and temptations and was promoted to Vice President of Egypt and helped save the lives of countless thousands during the 7 years of famine.

Case Study #2: _____-He was on a high—He had defeated Goliath, overcome the threat of Saul, and was promoted to King of Israel.

What happened to David? At the height of his position, David was tempted by a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. His desire turned into deed as he committed adultery and then did the unthinkable: He took out a hit on Bathsheba's husband Uriah.

The result: David failed and suffered many consequences including the loss of two children—his newborn and Absalom.

Case Study #3: _____—he had just predicted a judgment of drought and it came to pass at his word. He had just seen several miracles come to pass including raising a widow's son back from the dead. He then witnessed one of his greatest miracles in seeing fire come down from heaven in a huge defeat over the false cult of Baal and Asheroth—it was one-man vs 850 false prophets and God gave Elijah the victory!

What happened after this great high? One evil lady by the name of Jezebel threatened Elijah, and the man who just stood up to 850 people ran away scared to death by one woman.

The result: God strengthened Elijah by giving him food and drink and a new commissioning as He spoke to him in a still, small voice.

2. _____ has a strategy for you to _____ (v. 2-13).

- Do you want to know Satan's timeless strategy?

Genesis 3:6- So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

I John 2:16- For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

NLT-For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

Here it is: He will tempt you in 3 main areas--

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The lust of the _____ → Turn this stone into bread➤ The lust of the _____ → Rule the cities of the world➤ The pride of _____ → Take the shortcut to success—jump down and allow everyone to see God rescue you with His angels. |
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- The temptation of Jesus gives us a great insight into Satan's strategy and tactics.

2 Corinthians 2:11- lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

3. **Jesus always provides a way of _____ in every _____** (v. 1, 4, 8, 12).

- The promise in every temptation: There's ALWAYS a way out.

I Corinthians 10:13 (NIV); No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can

bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

5 Simply Strategies to help you overcome daily temptations in your life:

- Rely on the **power of the Holy Spirit**. Notice that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit *before* He got into temptation.
- The best decision is a **pre-decision**. Pre-decide to say no to every form of temptation before you enter it.
- Know when you are **most vulnerable** to fall—H.A.L.T. Hungry-Angry-Lonely-Tired.
- Focus on specific **Bible verses** that apply to your areas of weaknesses and temptation.
- **Live for eternity** and not just the present fleeting moment in time.

Insight into Temptation: Temporary gratification=long term consequences

Temporary sacrifice=long term rewards

Take Home Truth: When you say YES to temptation, you are saying NO to God's best, but when you say NO to temptation, you are saying YES to God's best.

Action Step: Are there any areas of sin in your life? Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to overcome this area of struggle.

Preview for next Sunday: "How to Deal with Discouragement" from Luke 4:14-30.

My Notes: