

# Temptation of Christ

Mt.4:1-11

# Two times when satan attacks

1. Elijah – 1 K.18 . . . 19
2. Jesus – Mt.3 . . . 4

Devil thought he could derail Jesus  
at the beginning of His ministry

# I. The Text – Mt.4:1-11

Led up by the Spirit...Jordan to wilderness,  
from Spirit to place of Israel's sin  
Jesus aggressively resists satan

Devil led every saint into sin –

[Abraham; Moses; Job; David; Isaiah; Daniel]

To be tempted by satan. Gn.3

Why did He go?

1. To defeat satan
2. To protect us
3. To release hostages

If Jesus sins, He will  
need John's baptism  
(3:13-15)

If Jesus sins, we lose  
(one sin sinks our  
salvation)

## Fasted forty days (2)

### The tempter (3) – number one

- “If you are [the] Son of God...” [3:17; 27:40]
  - Hopes He will misuse His power to benefit Himself, not others
  - Design: derail Jesus at the beginning
  - We are not tempted to use such powers
- Stones...bread...
  - Physical weakness
  - Israel did not fast 40 days...



## It is written (4)

- “Guided by God’s word...” (Dt.8:3)
- “Man shall not live by...”
  - Even good things can lead to sin
  - Some never rise above physical level of life: food, job, paycheck, clothes, shelter, medical care...

## It is written (4)

- 1 Our thoughts, desires, needs, 2 K.5
- 2 Majority opinion, Mt.23
- 3 Religious leaders, Mt.3
- 4 Family, Mt.10
- 5 Tradition, Mt.15

- **Heart:** feelings, past experience, other people, religious leaders, common sense...
- **Mouth:** intuition, imagination, individual taste...
- **Of God:** excludes human attempts



## The temple (5) – number two

- Then...
- Holy city. Acts 5. 1 Cor.11.
- Pinnacle of Temple
  - Prove your faith in God
  - Prove power of God
  - Prove reliability of God's promises

## If You are the Son of God... (6)

- Devil's "it is written"
  - Jump at opportunity to show trust
- His angels
  - Implication: Jesus is a fraud; doesn't trust God

## Jesus responds... (7)

- It is written again – not contradiction but harmony
- Again. Take all God says on subject. Dt.6:16; Ps.119:160
- Not tempt... [put God to test...]
  - Ps.91:11-12, speaks of journeys, NOT dare-devil feats
  - Angels guard God's people . . .

## The mountain (8) – number three

- From high point of temple to very high mountain
- Their glory

## The mountain (9)

- All these things I will give you – the generous tempter
  - Satan, the great liar (Gn.3; Jn.8:44)
  - Jesus is King of kings; satan offers fakes.  
Mt.28:18
  - Do we know this?
  - What is worth the loss of your soul? (Gn.3)
- If You fall down...worship me...

## Away with you, Satan! (10)

- ‘Satan’ – adversary
- It is written.
- Only. Not in Hebrew text of Dt.6:13 or LXX
  - “Only” = interpretive expansion
  - Based on context: Dt.6:14; 5:9
  - 1 Chron.15:2
  - 1 Sm.7:3, ‘serve Him only’

## Then devil left Him (11)

- Then ... satan more than met his match. Utter defeat.
- Left Him... sounded retreat. Lk.4:11, until an opportune time (NKJV; NASB: ESV).
  - He never goes far away; does not quit. 16:21-23, uses Peter. Jn.6:15, others...
- Angels ... More proof that He was tempted as a Man.

I. The Text: Mt.4:1-11

II. The Teaching



# 1. Lord's temptations were real.

- Hb.2:18
- Hb.4:15-16
  - One purpose of His temptations: assures us of His sympathy in our temptations
  - Jesus was tempted as we are, without sin

## 2. He defeated satan with same sword we use

- Eph.6:17, take...the sword of the Spirit,  
which is the word of God.

3. By rejecting satan's temptations, Jesus  
received the very blessings satan  
offered Him

4. Temptation leads to sin  
only when we let it

5. No temptation is beyond our  
power to resist.

1 Co.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.