

Jesus, His Ministry

Temptation and Personal Struggles

Lesson 4

Introduction

Jesus became aware of His identity and purpose early in life. At age 12, He amazed the religious teachers by His knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. At age 12 He also revealed His personal relationship with God referring to the Temple in Jerusalem as "My Father's house." (Luke 2:49)

1. Jesus worked alongside Joseph, his earthly father, in the family business as a "*tekton*" or a builder. At what age did Jesus leave the family business to follow God's purpose? (Luke 3:23)

2. The first event recorded in His ministry was submitting to John in baptism. Even though John was reluctant, what did Jesus say to assure John that this was part of God's plan? (Matthew 3:15)

3. Using Luke 3:21, 22:
 - What did Jesus do when He came out of the water?

 - What was the response from heaven?

4. Who was directing Jesus' life? (Luke 4:1a)

5. Where did He lead Jesus immediately after His baptism? (Luke 4:1b)

6. What took place there? (Luke 4:2)

The Temptations of Jesus

Temptation is defined as "the act of being enticed or allured to do evil with the promise of pleasure or gain."

When it was time for Jesus to fulfill God's purpose as the Messiah, before He even began, God allowed Jesus to be tempted. Although the tempter had evil in mind, God was in control and used this to test the Son of Man to see if He would remain obedient to the Father. The temptations of Jesus are recorded in Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13 and Luke 4:1-13.

Temptation #1

7. What was Jesus' condition at the time of this temptation? (Luke 4:2b)
8. What temptation did Satan, or the Devil, present? (Luke 4:3)
9. How did Jesus resist this temptation? (Luke 4:4)

Temptation #2

10. Satan led Jesus to a high place where He was shown all the kingdoms of the world. What was the temptation presented this time? (Luke 4:6,7)
11. What was Jesus' answer? (Luke 4:8)

Temptation #3

12. This temptation took place at the Temple in Jerusalem. As they stood on the highest point of the Temple, what was Satan's temptation? (Luke 4:9)
13. What additional enticement did Satan use? (Luke 4:10,11)
14. How did Jesus respond to this temptation? (Luke 4:12)

15. What did Satan do after this third temptation? (Luke 4:13)

Reflect

16. Review these three temptations of Jesus thinking about the purpose, which was to test the obedience of Jesus to the Father. Then create a title to reflect the real nature of each temptation.

- Temptation #1

- Temptation #2

- Temptation #3

17. Although these temptations were personal to Jesus as the Messiah, why was it important to us that Jesus, Son of Man, would be tempted? (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15)

What the Bible says about Temptation

18. Using James 1:13-15:

- Who can expect to be tempted?

- By whom will that temptation most often come?

- Who does not tempt us?

- What is the progression that begins with temptation?

Reflect on how Jesus was able to resist these three temptations. (Luke 4:4a, 8a, 12a)

19. What can believers do to help resist acting on temptation in their lives?

- Psalms 119:11
- Galatians 5:22-25
- Ephesians 5:10-12

Putting Feet to the Life of Victory Over Temptations

Understanding the difference between a trial and a temptation is helpful. Trials are things we go through that we have no control over in life. James said, "*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials...*" (James 1:2). Trials are an opportunity to grow and mature in our faith as we trust in the Lord. On the other hand, temptations are designed to lead us away from God and into sin. As we have seen throughout these temptations of Jesus, we cannot control the fact that we will be tempted, but we can control whether we will act on them and sin, or resist them as Jesus did. One of the key factors is knowing what God's Word says.

- This week, memorize this verse from God's Word to use as a strong reminder when temptation comes your way.

1 Corinthians 10:13 in the New Living Translation: *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- Write this verse on a note card or two and place in a prominent place. This is another opportunity to be used as a teaching tool for your children, as well as a reminder for you, when facing temptations.
- Be accountable to one another and share your struggles and victories during family times. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)