

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH
Victory Over Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)

October 10, 2024

Preliminary

Purpose: To warn against temptations and how to overcome them

Warning: Temptation is enticing and leads to disobeying God's will

Correction: Temptation itself is not sin – sin occurs only when one decides to follow it.

Note: Temptation is common to the flesh... 1 Cor 10:13 = *common to man*

Response: When the Word of God is kept in the heart, any form of temptation can be overcome... cf. Eph 6:16-18.

1. Jesus as Man and Evidence of His Divinity

Note: The temptation of Jesus must occur according to God's will.

Matthew 4:1 = *to be tempted by the Devil*

Point: This is *to fulfill all righteousness*... Mt 3:15; cf. Isa 53:3-12

(a) Jesus is the Son of God... Mt 3:17.

(b) It must occur to emphasize that Jesus did not sin... Heb 4:15; Jn 8:29; 1 Jn 3:5

(c) To prove that Jesus, having taken on flesh, understands the human condition
... Heb 2:18; 4:15; Phil 2:6-8

2. Jesus as the New Adam

Note: Temptation first occurred in the Garden of Eden, where Adam did not overcome it... Gen 3:1-6.

Result: Their temptation led to sin and was imputed to all mankind... Rom 5:12

Point: Jesus, as the second Adam, was not tempted, to fulfill humanity's salvation..
... 1 Cor 15:21-23, 45

➤ To restore the ruined image of man according to creation... Eph 4:24; 2 Cor 5:17

3. Jesus and Temptation

Note: Each temptation presented to Jesus is proof that it is common to humanity—according to the desires of the world... cf. 1 Jn 2:16.

➤ Temptations are typically presented according to human wants and needs...
Examples: food, water, sleep, sacred marital acts, material things, success, standard of living, etc.

Point: The temptations presented to Jesus correspond to the needs of His flesh.

(a) Desire of the Flesh... vv. 3, 4

Note: Jesus was hungry after forty days of fasting, and the Devil commanded Him to turn stones into bread.

Method of Temptation: *If you are the Son of God...* cf. Mt 3:17.

For Adam: The Devil's suggestion is that God is withholding good blessings from them.

For Jesus: *Are you really the Son of God? Why is He letting you go hungry? Does He care about you?*

Overcoming Temptation: Jesus fully trusts the Father who does not abandon His own children

➤ V. 4 = *Not by bread alone, but by every Word of God...*

Context: Deut 8:2-3 = God's goodness towards the complaining Israelites...

cf. Ex 16:2, 3, 8 = provision of food for Israel.

Point: Choosing temporary fleshly satisfaction over God's will is a clear rebellion against God.

Challenge: All who claim to be children of God will not escape the temptations of the Devil and the World—be vigilant not to succumb to the desires of the flesh...

Cf. Esau... Gen 25:29-34; Judas... Mt 27:3-10

(b) Desire for Life... vv. 5-7

Note: The temptation for self-preservation is the most difficult temptation that mankind can face

Method of Temptation: *If you are the Son of God... throw yourself down...* the angels will help you!... cf. Ps 91:11-12.

For Adam: *Surely you will not die...* Gen 3:4

For Jesus: You will not be hurt... *On their hands they will bear you up*

Overcoming Temptation: Believe that God protects His children...

Context: Deut 6:16 = God's protection of Israel's life...

Cf. Ex 17 = God's provision of water for Israel...v.7 = *Is the LORD among us or not?*

Point: God's protection is His natural act towards His children...

cf. Mt 6:25, 26, 31 = *do not be anxious about your life.*

Challenge: Trust in God, who holds every life – it is a wicked act to test God!

(c) Desire of the Eyes... vv. 8-10

Note: The temptation of the eyes invites greed for oneself—it invites one to be proud

Method of Temptation: *All these I will give to you, if you fall down and worship me.*

For Adam: *Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God...* Gen 3:5.

For Jesus: The Devil showed Him all the kingdoms and glory of the world to rule over them... v. 8.

Overcoming Temptation: Remember that only God deserves worship!

Context: Deut 6:13 = A warning against Israel's disobedience due to forgetfulness that God is greater than the kingdoms and gods of Egypt...

Point: Jesus knew that He is the God who should be worshiped rather than the Devil.

Challenge: The desire to achieve something that is not God's will is clearly a desire for self-exaltation and self-glorification—this is a Satanic behavior!

4. Reminders and Challenges

(a) God does not tempt, but the Devil is the father of lies... 2 Cor 4:4; Jn 8:44; Js 1:13

(b) Truly, we are in the midst of a spiritual battle... Eph 6:12.

➤ Be vigilant and prayerful... Mt 6:13; 26:41.

(c) Remember that God always cares for His children... Mt 6:25-26; 1 Pt 5:7.

(d) Do not succumb to our weaknesses and former fleshly habits... Mk 14:38; 1 Cor 6:18; Rom 6:12, 13; 1 Pt 2:11; Col 3:5; 2 Tim 2:22; James 4:7; Pro 4:14, 15

(e) Maintain your devotion to God's Word and your faith in Him... Eph 6:16