

# **The Wiles of the Devil**

## **The Temptation of Jesus**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Lesson 4**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*June 26, 2011*

# The wiles of the devil

- ▶ The devil or Satan – accuser
- ▶ Ephesians 6:10-11 – principalities and powers
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8 – Roaring lion
- ▶ 2 Corinthians 11:2-4 – Turn from devotion to Christ

# Lesson 1 – “Lucifer cast out”

- ▶ Isaiah 14:12-21; Ezekiel 28:11-19
- ▶ A great mystery – evil entering heaven
- ▶ “Proud because of your beauty” (Ezekiel 28:17)
- ▶ “Corrupted wisdom for the sake of your splendor”
- ▶ Rebellion against God (1 Samuel 15:22-23, 26)
  - Rebellion = witchcraft = rejected the Word of the LORD

## **Lesson 2 – “The Serpent in Paradise”**

- ▶ Temptation – reject the Word of the LORD
- ▶ Questioning, then outright denial
- ▶ Reliability of human wisdom to know Truth
- ▶ Failure to submit to the will of God – one sentence!
- ▶ Pride and rebellion

## Lesson 3 – “Consider Job!”

- ▶ An attempt to get Job to curse God
- ▶ Minimize God – God is of no value
- ▶ Not bless the ways of the LORD
- ▶ Not submit to the will of God
- ▶ Comes through circumstances – loss or reversal
- ▶ Job endured – James 5:11 – and was blessed



# Lesson 4 – “The temptation of Christ”

- ▶ 3 avenues of temptations by the Tempter
- ▶ 3 means of resistance by Christ
- ▶ A pattern for believers

# The Preparation

- ▶ The approval of God – Matthew 3:17
- ▶ The leading of the Spirit – Mark 1:12
  - Tempt or Test
- ▶ The will of God
  - Essential part of the life of Christ – not a chance encounter
  - “Learned obedience . . . and being made perfect” Hebrews 5:8-9
  - Suffer according to God’s will – 1 Peter 4:19
  - Entrusting Himself to the Father – 1 Peter 2:18-23

# The Preparation

## ▶ Temptation and sanctification

- In all points tested like we are – Hebrews 4:14-16
- Demonstration of faith – Luke 22:32

## ▶ Personal preparation

- Fasting – devotion to God does not hinder the devil's work
- Hunger – an opportunity, but not the deciding factor



## The First Temptation (4:3-4)

- ▶ The tempter came to him (4:3-4)
- ▶ The temptation: “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

# How is this a temptation?

- ▶ Invitation to demonstrate His Deity by a miracle?
  - John: “Are you the Son of God?” (Matthew 11:1-6 & Isaiah 35:1-6a)
  - Feeding of 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21)
  - Money from a fish’s mouth (Matthew 17:24-27)
- ▶ The Divine purpose
  - Matthew 20:28 – The Son of Man came to serve, not be served, and to give His life as a ransom for many
  - Came to do the will of the Father, not His own will (John 6:38)
  - The glory of Christ was masked by His humiliation (Phil 2:5-11)
  - Miracles confirmed His Person and Work
  - The work of salvation – atonement and live by faith

# Jesus answered:

- ▶ Deuteronomy 8:2-3
- ▶ Israel led through the wilderness to humble and to test them to know their hearts
- ▶ Humbled them, let them hunger, and fed them to teach them to live by the Word of God.
- ▶ Matthew 6:33 “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness . . .”
- ▶ Do not despise the discipline of the LORD (Proverbs 3:11-12)

# The Second Temptation (4:5-7)

- ▶ Taken to the pinnacle of the Temple
- ▶ The temptation: “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning you,’ and ‘on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

# How is this a temptation?

- ▶ Psalm 91 – “show Him *My* salvation.”
- ▶ An opportunity to prove the truth of God’s Word.
- ▶ An act of faith?
- ▶ A backhanded way of asking: “Did God really say . . .”
- ▶ A challenge to His faith?



# Jesus answered:

- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:16 and Exodus 17:1-7.
- ▶ The people asked for water
- ▶ Meribah – quarreling and strife – grumbling
- ▶ Massah – testing
  - Exodus 17:2 – testing the LORD
  - Exodus 17:7 – “Is the LORD among us or not?”
  - Deuteronomy 6:16
- ▶ Jesus came to do the will of the Father – submission
- ▶ Testing God is not trusting God

# The Third Temptation (4:8-10)

- ▶ On a high mountain with panorama of the kingdoms of the world and their glory
- ▶ The temptation: And he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’

# How is this a temptation?

- ▶ Satan's dominion was under God
- ▶ Christ came to destroy the works of the devil (Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8)
- ▶ It is a display of the power and glory of the world with an invitation to receive it without cost and with great glory.
- ▶ Dueling glory – the world or the Father

# Jesus answered:

- ▶ Worship and serve the LORD your God
- ▶ Love God with all heart – Deuteronomy 6:4-6
- ▶ Love of world opposes the love of God – James 4:4 and 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ What profit to gain the world and lose soul – Matthew 16:26
- ▶ We trust Him; we do not test Him; we worship Him

# The wiles of the devil

## ▶ Under God's control

- Satan's work to destroy your faith and separate you from Christ
- A test by God to demonstrate true faith

## ▶ Three templates in Christ's temptations

- Hebrews 4:15 – tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin
- The temptation of Eve in Genesis 3
- 1 John 2:15-16 – all that is in the world



# **Make bread from stones**

- ▶ Jesus – the Word of God v. the desires of the flesh
- ▶ Eve – good for food v. command of God
- ▶ John – the lust of the flesh

# **Jump off of a pinnacle of the temple**

- ▶ Jesus – force God to act at Christ's discretion
- ▶ Eve – a delight to the eyes
- ▶ John – lust of the eyes – pleasure now

# World kingdoms and their glory

- ▶ Jesus – satisfied with the world and its glory
- ▶ Eve – desired to make one wise – worldly wisdom
- ▶ John – pride of life – the good life without Christ

# Resist the devil

- ▶ Live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.
- ▶ Do not test the LORD – wait patiently for Him
- ▶ Worship and serve the LORD
- ▶ Be sober, be vigilant . . . 1 Peter 5:8