

**TACKLING TEMPTATIONS**

**#3 – THE REAL DEAL: JESUS AND TEMPTATION**

**Intro:** Does God really know or care how tough temptation is for you? Yes, because Jesus was tempted just like us.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If You are the Son of God,” he said, “throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift You up on their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered Him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give You,” he said, “if You will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” Then the devil left Him and angels came and attended Him. Matthew 4:1-11

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One Who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

***Why was Jesus tempted?***



**Satan’s Reason:** To beat Jesus before He could begin His mission.

**God’s Purpose:** 1) To show His humanity. Jesus relates to our struggles. 2) To show we can resist temptation successfully.

**I. Like Jesus, Temptation Hits Us During “Desert Times”**

- **Our \_\_\_\_\_ times and times of spiritual weariness, dryness, fatigue, and vulnerability.** These times can come even in the midst of material prosperity because we have grown spiritually apathetic.
- **Temptation often strikes during our desert times of \_\_\_\_\_.**  
We seem too incapable of putting up a fight.
- **Satan and his evil power \_\_\_\_\_ the threat of temptation.**
- **In spite of our weakness, God is still in \_\_\_\_\_.** He will guide and empower us to resist temptation, if we depend on Him.

**II. Like Jesus, We Will Face These Typical Temptations**

- **Physical needs and \_\_\_\_\_** – While taking care of our physical needs is not wrong, we must do it God’s way and in His timing.  
**Jesus’ Response** – Depend on God, and focus on His greater purpose for your life. (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)
- **A need to \_\_\_\_\_ God** – We do this 1) because of a lack of trust in God (insecurity), and/or 2) in our pride, attempt to selfishly manipulate God for our own ends.

**Jesus' Response** – Don't test God, trust God. (Deuteronomy 6:16)

- **Possessions and \_\_\_\_\_** – Wrong when they are selfishly gained for selfish ends. When we compromise God's principles of acquiring for personal ends, we are, in effect, worshipping Satan by using his ways.

**Jesus' Response** – No worship of anything, or anyone, but God. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 13)

### **III. Like Jesus, Using God's Word is a Key Weapon**

**By wielding the wonder weapon of God's written word, we:**

- **Expose the true \_\_\_\_\_ of what we are tempted to do.** Too often, we are deceived into thinking the temptation isn't so bad otherwise.
- **Get the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective on the temptation.** We may be blinded to this because of our emotions and desires.
- **Redirect our \_\_\_\_\_ from the temptation to the truth.**
- **Express our \_\_\_\_\_ and are empowered in our actions.** God's Spirit empowers His written word.

**⚠ Warning:** Do not distort the true meaning and purpose of Scripture like the devil did (in verse 7). Scripture can be twisted to mean almost anything.

***Like Jesus, we can beat temptation during desert times using the weapon of God's written word.***

**Answers:** I. Desert; vulnerability; magnify; control. II. Desires; test; power. III. Sinfulness; divine; thoughts; faith.

**Life Impact – Applying these truths to your life:**

1. Have you found that during personal desert times, you are more susceptible to temptations?
2. Which of the typical temptations that Jesus faced have you struggled with?
3. Do you use scripture as a key weapon in your fight against temptation?