

Radiant Church, February 5, 2017  
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**Temptation of Jesus**  
**Luke 4:1-12**

**1 John 2:15-16** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world*

**When Christ became human, He put the exercise of His divine knowledge and power under the discretion of the Father.**

**Luke 4:1-2** *and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.*

40 days relates to 40 years of the Exodus  
Christ's victory vs. our human failure

**Luke 4:3-4** *The devil said to him, If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"*

Compare this with our first parents, Adam and Eve

**Genesis 3:6**

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

Here is Jesus fighting against the desires of the flesh:

**A. Tempted to provide for His own needs apart from dependence on the Father**

Here is Jesus fighting against the desires of the eyes:

**Luke 4:5-8** *And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"*

## B. Tempted to accept power and authority apart from the power and authority of the Father

And here is Jesus resisting the boastful pride of life

### Luke 4:9-12

*And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,*

*"He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you," and*

*"On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."*

*And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

## C. Tempted to take a light view of sin and the easy way to kingship apart from God's complete and eternal sovereignty

Let's look at the Gospel writer Mark's take on this experience:

**Mark 1:12-13** *the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*

Already Jesus' battle against the powers of darkness begins. The battle lines are drawn.

And Jesus, like us, is taken through a period of severe testing

Testing ordained by God (*the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness*)

So why did Jesus have to undergo testing out in the desert?

So we would see that he wasn't some kind of clone who had no desires on his own

That his obedience to the Father was of his own free will

Yet Jesus is not abandoned, for he has the presence of the Holy Spirit  
The unity of the Triune God continues and prevails

And Mark adds this little tidbit about Jesus being with the "wild animals"

To put him in danger, thus showing all temptation to be dangerous?

Or like the animals before the Fall, transforming hostile creation into a peaceable Kingdom?

Or are the wild beasts Satan's little helpers?

Or to help his first-century readers to know that they may someday be thrown to the wild and savage animals by Caesar Nero?

This reference to wild animals could have been an intentional encouragement to his readers that Jesus dealt with wild animals too, so his followers should expect the same

And the angels are there ministering to him...and the readers can assume God will not forsake them either in their trials for their faith

Already Mark is asking his readers the question:

**Are we willing to yield to the King of kings and accept his offer of citizenship in the Kingdom, even when it may seem contrary to our own will or desires?**

Before Jesus's ministry can begin he experienced temptation so that he could fully identify with and commune with mankind as a true man.

While dealing with temptation in the Bible, this is how this passage in the gospels is normally taught. **"Make wise choices!" "Don't do bad things!" "Be a good Christian!" "Follow His example and act like Jesus"**

But there is a deeper issue going on...

**Christlikeness in heart and action is beyond any human accomplishment  
If we make this about being more moral, we will fail**

**Jesus models for us what gospel faith looks like - trusting the Lord to provide rather than making decisions based on the urgencies of the situation.**

In each situation the Devil presented a half-truth to Jesus.  
The devil, in our culture or in our brains presents half-truths we can believe

**Tim Keller said this: "If you love anything in this world more than God, you will crush that object under the weight of your expectations."**

The gospel call to faith is the call to look to the Lord's provision and timing, forcing us to look at the real truth of God's sovereignty and grace in the gospel.

**This kind of gospel living brings glory to God alone, and defeats any temptation to think otherwise.**