



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Life of Jesus: Lesson 17

The Temptation of Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

I. Quick Re-cap – Jesus’ baptism

II. Matthew 4:1-11

- A. v.1 – “then” – Just like “then Herod called the magi together” and “then Jesus came from Galilee”
- This is what happened next after the baptism and the identity of Jesus as “my Son”
- B. “was led up by the Spirit” – He was guided for the express purpose of His testing - Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit but tempted by the devil
- C. Two things to consider: 1) Don’t blame God for temptation 2) Don’t give the devil credit to act on his own
➤ So, does God tempt us or test us?
- D. *peirazō* is the Greek word for both tempted and tested – James 1:13 and Hebrews 11:17-20
1. Does God test us? YES
 2. Tense of the use of the word *peirazo* is aorist meaning its already started and is happening (like the 2nd inning) - It was God’s full intention for Jesus as a human to be tested - Jesus had to identify with us with basic needs/wants (food, comfort, knowledge)
- E. *ho diabolos* – the Greek uses the definitive article “ho” which is translated “the” - This means THE Devil not just some run of the mill devilish dude or underling

III. v.2

- A. His hunger is more proof of His humanity
- B. 40 days and 40 nights – 40 often used in Scripture as a time of testing - 4 is number of the Earth (4 corners) and 10 of wholeness (Commandments, plagues, Passover lamb eaten 10th day...)

1. Some “40’s”:

- Noah with raining
- Moses in desert part 1 after killing Egyptian – 40 years
- Exodus
- Moses on Sinai for 40 days
- Elijah 40 days/nights fleeing Jezebel
- 40 days between the Resurrection and Ascension

IV. vv.3-4

A. The “tempter” is Satan’s job description – comes from *pietazo* – word is a verb

B. “If” could be better seen as “Well, since you are the Son of God...” - How would Satan know this? He saw the baptism

C. Satan is using a pattern he’s done before - Basic things for humans: a) Good food b) Enjoyable to see c) Wisdom/power

1. Genesis 3:1-7

2. 1st John 2:15-17

D. All of Jesus’ responses come from Deuteronomy – 2nd most quoted book by Jesus after Psalms

E. v.4 - “It is written” – No one in NT quotes the apocrypha or any other book as “it is written”
Jesus quotes from Deut. 8:3 - Put the spiritual before the physical

V. vv.5-7

A. Matthew puts the temptations in chronological order – “then...” where Luke does not

B. How did Satan “take” Jesus to the Holy City? I think it’s some sort of supernatural thing

C. What was the pinnacle of the temple? Maybe the southeastern corner of the temple complex overlooking the Kidron Valley

D. Satan quotes Psalms 91:11-12 - Note the Psalm talks about me striking my foot on a stone not jumping off a building

E. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16

VI. vv.8-10

A. Again, more supernatural – there is no one mountain that can see all that - Jesus knows He gets all the glory anyway so it's not Satan's to give

B. Satan is offering Jesus a “no-cross-no-suffering path” - Jesus quotes Deuter. 6:13

VII. v.11

A. Angels were “deaconizing” Jesus – Greek word for ministering is same for deacon

B. Luke 4:13: *And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. Note Scripture only tell us the temptations that happened on day 40*

VIII. My Take Aways

- Satan is real and he never quits
- He is the tempter if we choose to allow it
- The Word of the Lord is the best weapon we have
- God will test us to shore up our faith but He is still in control
- Genesis 50:20: *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good*

Questions? Comments? Thoughts?
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