

# Lessons From The Temptation of Christ

**Text:** Matthew 4:1-11

## **Introduction:**

1. No doubt we are all aware of the benefits of the example of our Savior (1 Peter 2:21)
2. In our text we find one of the rich passages which will help us as we strive to stand with Christ (Matthew 11:28-30) and against the devil (1 Peter 5:8).

## **Discussion:**

### **I. Review of the Temptation**

1. The first temptation (3-4) – Satan's appeal to the lust of the flesh
  - (1) Satan appeals to hunger: "command that these stones be made bread"
  - (3) Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man shall not live by bread alone..."
2. The second temptation (5-7) – Satan appeals to the pride of life
  - (1) "cast thyself down," quoting scriptures himself, using Psalm 91:11,12
  - (2) Jesus quotes Deut. 6:16, "You shall not tempt the LORD your God"
3. The third temptation (8-10) – Satan appeals to the lust of the eyes
  - (1) Satan offers to give Jesus all the kingdoms if He will worship him
  - (2) Jesus responds with, "Thou shalt worship the LORD thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (from Deuteronomy 6:13)
4. At the end of the temptations, angels came and ministered to Jesus (4:11)

### **II. Some Lessons from the Battle**

1. We have the same adversary (1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:17; 17:14)
2. Our adversary will attack us in the same fashion as he did Christ (1 John 2:15-16):
  - (1) Lust of the flesh (ie. immorality, desires ... especially when young)
  - (2) The lust of the eyes - (ie., materialism ... especially when middle-aged)
  - (3) The pride of life - (ie, pride and arrogance ... especially when older)If we are to truly love God, we must overcome these (1 John 2:15)
3. Our weaponry to fight the devil is the same
  - (1) The Word, "It is written..." – Us... Ephesians 6:12-17
  - (2) Faith is likewise obvious in Christ – Us ... 1 John 5:4
  - (3) Prayer was likewise an integral part of Christ's life – Us... Matthew 26:41
  - (4) Hope was important to Christ – Us ... Romans 8:24; Hebrews 6:18-19
4. Just as Christ was blessed when He overcome, we will also be...
  - (1) Jesus was administered to by angels, angels will carry us home (cf. Luke 16:22)
  - (2) Jesus was not willing to "take shortcuts" in His attempt to gain heaven (Matthew 4:8-10). Neither should we be.. (Matthew 7:13-14; Revelation 2:10,26-27; 3:21)
5. Scripture can easily be abused, as well as used - 2 Peter 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
6. The way to eternal glory is not quick and easy, but long and hard (Acts 14:22; Romans 2:6-7)... **But it is worth it!** (Romans 8:12-18)
7. Jesus knows about our struggles, trials and temptations, and He can and will help (Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:15-16)

## **Conclusion:**

God has made it clear that our adversary seeks to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8). But aren't we blessed beyond measure in having all our needs supplied that enable us to stand against him! (James 4:7-8)