

“Temptations”
Matthew 4:1-11
Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Introduction: We should not become preoccupied with the devil, but neither should we be ignorant of the devil. His goal is our destruction. His method is deception. The Bible tells us the ways the devil goes about deceiving us. One of the ways is temptation. The devil constantly brings temptation into people’s lives. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil.

T.S. How Jesus handled temptation is a model for us to follow.

Text: Matthew 4:1-11 (Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4: 1-13)

1. Satan often tempts after “mountain top” experiences.

- Jesus was tempted immediately after His baptism.
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus’ temptation experiences immediately following His baptism.

Application: You need to be on guard when you have had a “mountain top” experience. In the excitement over what has happened, Satan will seemingly come from nowhere.

Illustration: I could write a book on the ways Satan has tempted me after “mountain top” experiences.

2. Satan often tempts us when we are following the Lord.

- The Bible tells us that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
- You would think a person following the Lord would be exempted from temptation.
- The opposite is true.

Application: When you are trying to follow the Lord, Satan will tempt you.

Illustration: I will give you an example of this as recent as last night. Last night I was typing today’s message about 10:00 pm. I had about three-fourths of it typed and mistakingly hit the delete button and lost it all. I had to start over. I was tempted to get discouraged.

3. Satan often tempts us when we are physically tired.

- The Bible says that Jesus had fasted forty days and nights and was hungry.
- Jesus was physically tired and Satan attacked.

Application: When you are physically tired, be on guard. You will not be your best.

Illustration: I had this very thing happen to me last Tuesday. Let me share what happened. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page www.fbp.org).

Conclusion: Hopefully, Satan is not tempting you in some way. That is good, but understand that Satan will return at “an opportune time” (Luke 4:13). How do you have victory over temptation? The same way Jesus did—with God’s Word.