

# THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

## Lesson Six

### *The TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST*

Scripture reading: Matt. 4:1-11

#### **Burden to Impart:**

*The main point in this lesson is that Jesus overcame the Devil's temptation in the wilderness by using the Word of God. Adam failed when he was tempted in the garden of Eden, but Jesus fully overcame the temptation in the desert. As a man, Jesus was strengthened, empowered, and had the true wisdom to overcome the ancient tempter of mankind through the Word of God. By taking in the Lord's Word each day we are also strengthened and can say, "No!" to the tempter when he comes to us. The Devil tempts us to sin. Then when we do sin, he laughs at us. When we say, "No!" to him again and again, he will go away and stop bothering us for a while (cf. Luke 4:13, note 131).*

**Memory Verse:** "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalms 119:11).

#### **Facts to Teach:**

1. Because the Lord Jesus was a man of flesh and blood, He was subject to every temptation as we are (Heb. 2:18; 4:15). Yet, He overcame every temptation victoriously and never sinned. He lived a perfect sinless life as a man.
2. He was tempted in His human living with hunger, yet He refused to use His divine power to do a miracle. Jesus would not take any suggestions from Satan, not even one that seemed "good." He quoted Deut. 8:3, "*Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.*" This shows that He would only live and do things according to His Father's word.
3. He was tempted to do an exciting miracle in religion as the Son of God by jumping off the temple without being hurt and attracting a lot of attention to Himself. The Lord refused to take Satan's suggestion and quoted Deut. 6:16, "*You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*" To allow the Devil to lead us into a dangerous or tempting situation and expect God to do a religious miracle to save us is to "tempt the Lord our God." Instead of listening to the Devil we should take the normal way down, finding a stairway and walking down slowly and carefully.
4. He was tempted to worship the Devil in order to get all the power and glory (vainglory) of the world, yet He refused to worship the Devil in any way by quoting Deut. 6:13, "*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.*" To worship or serve anything other than God in order to get something you want in return, is always a temptation and surely comes from the Devil. He tempts us like this in order to get our worship.
5. We must read God's Word and even hide it in our heart as the Lord Jesus did. This is the only way we will be strong enough to resist Satan's temptations and not sin against the Lord.

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Songs for Lesson Six

### *JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS*

*Hymns, Jr., #108.*

D  
God's word have I hidden in my heart  
A D  
That I might not sin against my God.  
D A  
God's word have I hidden in my heart  
G A D  
That I might not sin against my God.

Matthew 4:4; tune: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God."

D A G D  
Man shall not live by bread alone,  
G D E<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>  
But by every word  
D A G D  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
G D A<sup>7</sup>D  
Hallelu-, hallelujah.

Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah,  
Hallelujah,  
Hallelu-, hallelujah.

*May be sung in two parts, both verses at the same time.*

## THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for lesson 6)

### THE TEMPTATION OF THE LORD JESUS

Memory verse: Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

Psalm 119:11

When our Lord Jesus came up out of the waters of baptism, God sent a dove from heaven, as His Holy Spirit. Because He was pure and sinless, God's presence as a dove could rest upon Him; He would hear and obey. He followed and Spirit's leading, going right into the wilderness. He went, not as God, with God's authority, but as a man, to be tested and tried, both by God and by Satan.

Do you think that for these forty days and nights our Lord was alone in the wilderness? in the heat of the day and the cold of night? No! Fierce and wild beasts were also there to threaten Him. He was their Creator but He did not command protection for Himself. He was experiencing the "curse" for us as part of redemption for all creation. During this long time He fasted, not eating any food at all.

The devil knew that He was tired, hungry and weak. So, at this time he came to our Lord saying, "If You are the Son of God, speak, that these stones may become bread." To this the Lord replied, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Satan was afraid of that word "man" because God was using His Son, as a man, and it is MAN who will one day defeat him, our enemy, the Devil. Then Satan left Him.

The devil came again. He took the Lord Jesus into the holy city and set Him on the wing of the temple and told Him to jump down. He told the Lord Jesus, "all the religious people standing below will then believe in You, for God will surely send an angel to guard you and hold you up." But God the Father did not need to use Satan's way to prove that the Lord Jesus is His Son. This obedient One came as one of us, as the Son of Man. His Person and His way of living was proof enough to those who followed Him to believe that He was God's Son.

Then the Lord Jesus said to the devil, "Again it is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God." Satan tried to deceive the Lord Jesus by quoting a verse from the Bible, but the Lord Jesus again used the Word of God to defeat him.

We read now of the third temptation. "Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory and said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me." We can see here that it only takes a moment of time to see all the glories of this world. In God's kingdom, however, it will take all eternity for us to unfold the greatness of our God and His glory.

(continued)

Luke tells us that the kingdoms of this world were once delivered unto the devil. He offered them in return for the Lord's bowing down to him, the evil one. Satan was suggesting a way for our Lord to avoid much suffering. But no amount of gain or glory could tempt the Lord Jesus to forsake His Father's plan to redeem fallen man and regain the kingdoms of this world. Then the Lord Jesus said, "Go Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him only shall you serve." Matthew adds, "Then the devil leaves Him, and angels came and ministered to Him." God's angels came and ministered to this undefeated King and suffering Man.

We see that our Lord Jesus could neither be tempted by the devil regarding His physical life, nor for religious fame and power or a worldly position and glory. He came as the Son of Man to overcome Satan and destroy all the works of the devil.