

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 1, 2015

SUBJECT: THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His Temptation in the Wilderness

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:18; 4:15

AIM: To help the children see that the Lord Jesus overcame temptation by God's Word. Therefore, we, like Him, must be filled with the Word of God so that we may also overcome temptations in our daily life.

SUGGESTED SONGS: 70 (Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet); 173 (To The Foe My Word is Always "No"); 63 (By His Word); 66 (God's Word In My Heart); 68 (The Word of God); 69 (Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart - Psalm 119:11); 174 (When "Ugly Satan" Knocks At My Heart's Door), 1309 BSS Matthew Vol. 1 Song #13 (B-I-B-L-E), 9426 BSS The Bible Song #26 (Let the Word of Christ Dwell); 9421 BSS The Bible Song #21 (I've Got the Living Word); 9427 BSS The Bible Song #27 (YES In My Bible)

MEMORY VERSES: Psalms 119:11 (In my heart I have treasured up Your word That I might not sin against You.); Hebrews 4:15 (For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like *us*, yet without sin.); Hebrews 2:18 (For being tempted in that which He Himself has suffered, He is able to help those who are being tempted.); Matthew 6:13a (And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.)

WORDS TO DEFINE/TALK ABOUT: *Temptation* (to entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain; the presenting of an attraction so strong that it overcomes the restraints of conscience or better judgment); *memorize* (to know by heart, to know something perfectly so as to be able to recite); *recite* (to repeat from memory).

BACKGROUND: Last week, we saw that the Lord Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. When the Lord Jesus was baptized God showed how very pleased He was by giving three signs. The Lord Jesus was a good example to us. Even though He was without sin, He was baptized to be right with God according to God's way.

CONTENT: After His baptism, Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil. In the wilderness, He fasted forty days and forty nights; afterward He became hungry. Then the tempter (the devil) came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, speak that these stones may become loaves of bread." But the Lord Jesus refused to use His divine power to do a miracle. He would not take any suggestions from Satan, not even one that seemed "good." Rather, He quoted the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3), saying "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God.'" This showed that He would only live and do things according to His Father's word.

Then the devil took Him into the holy city, Jerusalem, and set Him on the wing of the temple. He said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down; for it is written, 'To His angels He shall give charge concerning You, and on *their* hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'" The devil was tempting the Lord Jesus to do an exciting miracle as the Son of God by jumping off the temple without being hurt. Again, the Lord Jesus refused to take Satan's suggestion and again quoted the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:16): "Again, it is written, 'You shall not test the Lord your God.'"

Then 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.” This time the devil was tempting the Lord Jesus to worship him in exchange for all the power and glory (vainglory) of the world. But the Lord Jesus refused to worship the devil in any way. Once again He quoted the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:13), saying, “Go away Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’”

When the devil had finished these three temptations, he went away from the Lord Jesus. The devil would look for another opportunity to come back again and tempt Jesus. Then angels came and ministered to Him.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION TO CHOOSE FROM:

- **The Word of God (the Bible) is Powerful.** The Lord Jesus overcame every temptation victoriously through the Word of God. By being filled with the Word, He had the strength, power, and wisdom to overcome the devil. This is an example to us—we must know God’s Word and hide it in our hearts 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.
- **The Importance of Memorizing Bible Verses.** We can see how the Lord Jesus readily quoted the Word of God. He was familiar with the Word and committed it to memory. Each week we are assigned a memory verse from the Bible. We should practice it during the week, not just memorize the verse last minute on the Lord’s Day. Daily practice will help get the Word into our long-term memory. Then that Word will strengthen us in time of temptation.
- **God cannot be mocked or taken for granted.** We should not allow the devil to lead us into a dangerous or tempting situation and expect God to protect us. This is to “test the Lord our God.” We should not listen to the devil (in our heart or through other kids’ dares or through something we have seen or heard on TV, video games, etc.) by attempting to do any dangerous acts that may harm us. We need to remember God’s Word and use it (pray) to strengthen us in these situations.
- **We should not worship or serve anything other than God.** We may be tempted to want to be at the top of our class, or to be the best in something just for our own glory. Satan tempts us like this so that we would not give God the very first and best place in our heart. But, remember, we can avoid falling into temptation and having this kind of sad experience by being filled with the Word of God.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God’s Economy*—Vol. 3, *The Person and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ*, Lesson 6, and from the Church in New York City’s Children’s meeting lessons: 12/3/89; 10/13/96; 10/13/02; 10/17/04; 11/9/08; 11/07/10.