

Jesus: The Pattern of Resisting Temptation

Intro: Gal 2:20 – “No longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” Our will, desires are to surrender to the Lord. Our aim is to let Christ live through our words and deeds.

1. Jesus: In All Points Tempted

A. God in His heavenly state cannot be tempted (Jas 1:13), but when Jesus took on a fleshly body He became subject to temptation (Heb 4:15).

1. It was not enough for God to simply state His sympathy for our plight; Jesus *lived* our life.
2. Jesus’ temptations were the most intense; He *never* succumbed.
3. His temptations were not materially different from ours.

B. Some temptations faced by Jesus:

1. In the wilderness – Mt 4:1-11. Temptation is the enticement to do our own will instead of God’s. Satan’s temptations struck at the very heart of Jesus’ relationship with God. Did God care? Would God protect Him? Shortcut to power?
2. Jesus was tempted by the shortcomings of humans around Him: hypocrisy, ignorance and pride of Jewish leaders; the impugning of His motives; the spiritual dullness of even the apostles. These things would have tempted Jesus to anger, frustration, unkindness, retribution, lack of patience. See Mt 15:1-14.
3. Jesus was also tempted by the dread of what lay ahead of Him – Lk 12:50; Jn 12:27.

C. We allow ourselves to be convinced that sin will make us happy, complete, fulfilled and otherwise benefited. But what did Jesus lack by *never giving in to sin*?

2. Resisting Temptation

A. Temptation occurs when an evil suggestion is made and one is “*drawn away by his own desires and enticed*” (Jas 1:14). It is important to understand ...

1. That these desires are not unique but “common to man” – 1 Cor 10:13.
2. As strong as temptation seems it cannot overpower us – 1 Cor 10:13.
3. Our struggle is inward, gaining self-control – 1 Pet 4:1-3. We often succumb to

temptation because we set ourselves up for failure. We are half-committed, half-hearted and half-witted in our effort to live as a child of God. We wait **too long** before resisting. **Illus: Danny.**

- B. Jesus' resistance was based on "*It is written ...*" (Mt 4:4, 7, 10). Satan quoted Scripture too, but ***we must be smarter than the devil to go to heaven!*** We must *know* and *value* what God says about sin – and what He says is that it is always destructive and ruinous.
- C. We are assured that when we resist the devil, "*he will flee*" (Jas 4:7). But, as in the case of Jesus, only "*until an opportune time*" (Lk 4:13).

3. The Price of Giving In To Temptation

- A. Realize that experiencing temptation is not itself sin! Jesus was tempted "*yet without sin.*" "*When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin*" (Jas 1:15).
- B. Everyone here knows the effects of succumbing to temptation:
 - 1. The disappointment of personal failure.
 - 2. The shame of having acted foolishly.
 - 3. The burden of a guilty conscience.
- C. As we grow older and mature in the faith, we should learn that the joys of obedience far outweigh the miseries of giving in.