

Introduction

1. There are 2 kinds of "temptation". Explain
2. Satan character: liar, deceiver, murderer
3. The time:
 - (i) after blessing
 - (ii) start of ministry

1. THE FIRST TEMPTATION: v.3-4

- 1) v.1: We see that God's will is to give us experience of Satan's wiles in this life.
- 2) v.2:
 - i) forty days fasting. Explain.
 - ii) Satan takes advantage when he can
 - iii) where Adam failed, Christ succeeded
- 3) The first temptation: To unbelief – doubting God:
 - i) "If thou be..."
 - ii) "the Son of God"
 - iii) "Command..."

OBSERVE: Christ used His power only to glorify God
- 4) The answer of Christ:
 - i) from scripture
 - ii) scripture is "the word of the Spirit"

LESSON: We need to know and use the Bible
APPLICATION: Memorise the Bible

2. THE SECOND TEMPTATION: v.5-7

- 1) v.5: there is something amazing here: "pinnacle"

- 2) v.6: the second temptation: To presumption. This is the reverse of the first temptation.
OBSERVE: Satan varies his attack ("wrestle")
 The path of righteousness is the mean between two extremes. So truth lies between two extremes, e.g. Arminianism/Hyper-Calvinism
- 3) Satan's cunning: he quotes scripture (Ps. 91)
OBSERVE: The devil knows the Bible but he quotes it only to deceive Christ. It is a misuse of scripture.
- 4) The answer of Christ:
 - i) to quote scripture "again", i.e. to correct Satan's misuse
 - ii) again, from Deuteronomy

LESSON: the true sense of scripture is to be understood by the consensus of scripture.
EXAMPLE: John 1:1 (JWs) – explained
APPLICATION: Interpret scripture by scripture

3. THE THIRD TEMPTATION: v.8-10

- 1) v.8: again, Satan's power is surprising
- 2) v.9: this third temptation: to compromise, i.e. to do evil that He might get good
OBSERVE: "Let us do evil that good may come"
- 3) The subtlety of this temptation:
 - i) Christ was to be given authority over all nations
 - ii) but he must first go to the Cross
 - iii) Here the offer is made with no reference to the Cross
 - iv) But the terms were utterly wrong

OBSERVE: One can see how the Papacy began – see 2 Thes. 2
Quote: Bp. Gregory the Great
- 4) Christ's Answer: again our Lord quotes the scripture – once more from Deuteronomy.
LESSON: Never do evil that good may come
APPLICATION: The work of God must never be promoted by dishonesty or idolatry

CONCLUSION

1. 3 great lessons: watch against –
 - (i) unbelief
 - (ii) presumption
 - (iii) compromise
2. These three evils are to be seen in the OT church and in the NT church.
"The angels ministered"!
3. To serve God aright we must watch and pray against Satan's wiles.
"Put on the whole armour of God".

PSALM

54: 1 – 7

57: 1 – 4

141: 8 – 10