

Fact Sheet for "Tempted"

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor Bob Singer
12/14/2014

Although Jesus had no sin nature the temptations were real (Hebrews 4:15). The most famous record of Him being tempted occurs just after He was baptized.

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

ESV ¹ **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.**

³ **And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, ""MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD."**

Jesus quoted the second half of Deuteronomy 8:3.

There were ten times Israel tempted God...

1. Ex. 15:1-21 - Straw & Bricks
2. Ex. 14:1-14 - Red Sea
3. Ex. 15:22-25a - Bitter Water at Marah
4. Ex. 16:1-36 - 1st Quail & Manna
5. Ex. 17:1-7 - Rock Struck Once (Massah = "test")
6. Ex. 32:1-35 - Golden Calf
7. Num. 11:1-3 - Complaining (fire consumed outskirts of the camp)
8. Num. 11:4-35 - 2nd Quail
9. Num. 12:1-15 - Miriam & Aaron
10. Num. 13-14 - 12 Spies

They complained and got manna (Exodus 16), and complained again (Numbers 11:6). *Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights and resisted temptation where Israel did not.*

⁵ **Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ""HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU," and ""ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE."**

⁷ **Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"**

Satan quoted Psalm 91:11-12! Jesus quoted the first part of Deuteronomy 6:16 referring to Exodus 17:1-7.

Jesus again succeeded in resisting temptation where Israel did not.

⁸ **Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ""YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND HIM ONLY SHALL YOU SERVE."**

Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13. Remember the golden calf (Exodus 32:1-35)? Read also Deuteronomy 6:10-13.

Jesus for a third time succeeded in resisting temptation where Israel did not.

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

^{NAU} **Luke 4:13** When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

Jesus did not have a sin nature. He never had to confess sin. He never had to repent. But the temptations were still real. Adam and Eve, before they ate of the forbidden fruit, did not have a sin nature, but the temptation was still real for them. Now all of us have a sin nature, but this does not excuse our sin (Romans 6:6, 11)! We have the same resources available to us that were available to Jesus in resisting sin: The Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and prayer. So, what do we need to do when we sin? Let me give you some real practical pointers.

#1 Know clearly that all sin brings pain!

^{ESV} **Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

#2 The first step in restoration is to check your will!

You may *desperately* want to be free from the consequences, but unless you are willing to seek real change before God I... can't... help... you!

#3 Run towards God, not away from Him.

#4 Be honest about your sin.

We can lie really well, by direct statement and in other ways.

Blaming

Overemphasizing the positive

Downplaying the negative

Half-truths

Out of sight, out of mind

Self-deception

Recasting the sin

Justifying

(*student*)

#5 Deal rightly with the consequences.

#6 Look deeply into your character.

When we fail to resist temptation we fail in more than just a decision. There is an underlying character flaw that made it possible to give-in to that temptation.

#7 Restoration is to the image of God.

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Restoration is not to what we were like before we sinned.

And remember...

^{ESV} **John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.