JESUS and the TEMPTER
Matthew 4:1-11

Introduction

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate I do. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” Romans 7:15, 18

Have you ever felt that way?
There is an answer to our struggle with sin. There is victory in Jesus Christ.

I. We must build our life on the Word of God.
Matthew 4:1-4

“Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that men does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:2-3

After Jesus’ baptism, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
• The word tempt can also mean test.
• The 40 days parallels Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness.
Does God do that today?
Could Jesus really be tempted since he is God?

- In his deity he could not be tempted.
- In his humanity, he was tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16

“The tell these stones to become bread”
It was a temptation to use his power in a way that was inconsistent with his mission.

“More necessary than bread for Jesus was obedience to God’s Word.” D. A. Carson

“My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” John 4:34

II. We must trust God.
Matthew 4:5-7

The second temptation is set in Jerusalem and Jesus is standing at the highest point of the temple complex.
This is a temptation to doubt God’s Word and his care.

Has Satan ever tempted you to doubt God’s concern or the truth of his Word?
Satan quoted Scripture - Psalm 91:11-12. It speaks of God’s concern for his children.

But the Scripture also forbids putting God to the test.
Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16.

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”
The right response on our part is trust and obedience.

III. We must worship God only. Matthew 4:8-11

The third temptation takes place on a high mountain. In a vision, Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world.

“I will give these to you if you will bow down and worship me.”

Satan offered him a short cut. It was a way to avoid the suffering and the cross.

Jesus again quotes from Deuteronomy 6, verse 13, “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”

There is no short cut to glory and there are no short cuts to spiritual maturity. There is only the way of the cross.

“Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”


Keep your eyes on the Lord and worship him only.
Conclusion

How did Jesus deal with temptation?
He used the Scripture.
The three verses he quoted are all from Deuteronomy 6-8.
• Where Israel grumbled and complained, Jesus obeyed.
• Where Israel doubted, Jesus trusted.
• Where Israel bowed down to other gods, Jesus called us to worship God only.

Jesus is our example.

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13