

A note from Kathy

This week we are looking at Matthew 4, the temptation of Christ and the beginning of his earthly ministry. Satan would have loved to thwart God's plan at this point in Jesus' ministry. He has not changed; he is always looking to block God's work in the lives of those God loves. Let's see how Jesus handled temptation so that we can follow his example.

Observation

1. Jesus had been fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, and he was _____.
2. Satan showed up and put into motion a diabolical plan to ruin God's plan by getting Jesus to sin. What did he say to Jesus?

3. No one can be called obedient until they have been tested. Jesus was God come down to man, God in flesh. He certainly would have been able to do exactly what Satan was tempting him to do. But just because it was something he could do, that did not make it something he should do. What did Jesus use in answer to this temptation?
4. Once was not enough; Satan would never give up that easily. Satan would use the truth about Jesus to try to tempt him a second time. "If (this little word "if" is only two letters and yet it carries so much for us to ponder) you are the Son of God, _____." Jesus would not use God as a divine genie; he would await God's deliverance. Again, what do we see Jesus using to resist Satan?
5. This time Satan displayed the world in its entire splendor for Jesus to see. This can all be yours right now, you can rule and reign if you will worship me. Again what weapon do we see Jesus use?
6. How do you picture Jesus at this time? Think carefully about your answer.
7. In verses 12-17, where was John the Baptist at that time?

8. This was the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry. In one word, what is the message that he was preaching? _____
9. In verses 18-22, as Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, who did he see fishing? This was not the first time Jesus had met these men according to John 1:35-42, but even if it had been, Jesus knows the hearts of every man, woman and child. What was his invitation to these men? What was their response?
10. Even though Jesus' ministry was one of teaching, preaching and healing, what did the crowds focus on?

Application

1. Look at verses 1-4 and try to put into one or two words what Satan was tempting Jesus with. _____
2. Jesus did have a serious and legitimate need. Was God unaware of his need; was he too busy or distracted to help? Would God really allow Jesus to starve before completing his purpose? How will you apply James 4:7 to your next temptation?
James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
3. Like Eve in the garden, Satan wants us to question the goodness and provision of our Heavenly Father. Satan chooses carefully his time to come tempt us, and it is often when we are physically or emotionally tired. He is a cunning adversary. What could you do now (at this time) that would help you resist his lies the next time he comes to tempt you?
4. Look at verses 5-7 and try to put into one or two words what Satan was tempting Jesus with. _____ Even though what he was tempted to do was within his capabilities, would it be the right thing to do? Have you ever been tempted

to do something that was well within your power, but would not be the right thing to do at that time? How did you handle it?

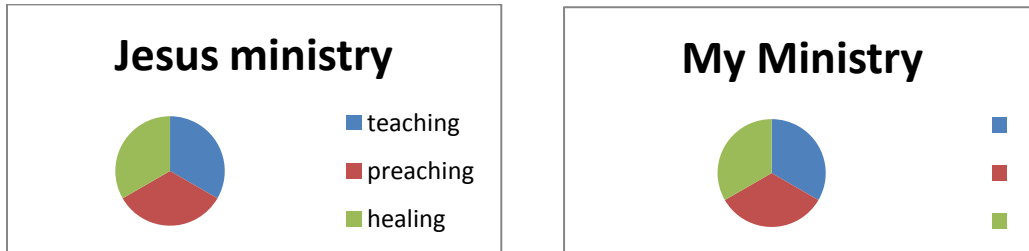
5. Look at verses 8-10 and try to put Satan's temptation into one or two words.

_____ Satan was offering to give Jesus authority over everything at that very minute; all the suffering could end and he could rule and reign.

Has Satan ever lied to you in order to get you to justify acting contrary to God's will? How did you handle it?

6. In the Observation section, in question 6, I asked you to describe Jesus as Satan left him. Think about your last truly difficult temptation. How would you describe yourself after it was over? You may be in the middle of a difficult testing right now. If so, how would you like to be able to describe yourself when it is over?
7. We would do well to remind ourselves that if we never had a need, we would never need our God. God is faithful. Who did he send to minister to Jesus? What will he do for us in our time of need?
8. The great Bible teacher Howard Hendricks said, "**A belief is something you will argue about. A conviction is something you will die for!**" Our convictions determine our conduct. Have your convictions been put to the test?
9. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew immediately said yes to Jesus' invitation to join him. This would mean some real changes for these men. It would mean giving up some things in order to minister with Jesus. List some of the changes and sacrifices they would be choosing.

10. According to verse 23, Jesus' ministry had three components. Jesus spent much of his time teaching the disciples, preaching or proclaiming the truth to crowds, and healing the sick. How would you describe how you spend your time? What would be your 3 major categories?



11. In what way do you believe studying the temptations of Christ will help you face your own temptations? (Be specific)

12. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew left family, friends, and their previous livelihoods to join Jesus. What has God's call on your life required you to leave behind? The truth is you can never out give God.

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.