

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Handle Temptation

SERMON REFERENCE: Luke 4:1-12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2025

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are three ways in which people try to deal with temptation; two of them are wrong.
 - i) One way is to simply give in to it.
 - (1) Many people are not bothered by temptation because they do what they want to do when they want to do it.
 - (a) People who live like this are living like animals.
 - (i) Animals live for self-gratification, self-propagation and self-preservation.
 - ii) Others try to fight temptation, but they do so in the strength of their own flesh.
 - (1) They try and fail and try and fail.
 - iii) The third way is to understand both the example and the power for overcoming Satanic temptation found in the wilderness temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Jesus is our example and power.
 - b) We need to study the temptation of the Lord Jesus for three reasons:
 - i) There is an enemy who would harm us.
 - (1) Luke 4:1-2
 - (2) We have a malevolent enemy who wants to harm us and those we love.
 - (a) This enemy has a plan and strategy to harm us.
 - (b) He is setting us up for a fall.
 - (3) It's not that we are so important; Satan's real war is with God.
 - (a) Satan wants to get at God by getting at us because God loves us.
 - ii) The experience that humbles us.
 - (1) Most of us have failed and failed, and we're tired of failing.
 - (2) Many Christians are not living a victorious life and are being overcome rather than being overcomers.
 - iii) The example that helps us.
 - (1) By studying the temptation of the Lord Jesus, we learn what He did when He was tempted.
 - (2) God gave us an example in the Lord Jesus, and we are to walk as He walked.
 - c) In today's message, we will learn how Jesus came out of the wilderness victorious and how we can live a victorious life.

2) THE POSSIBILITY OF TEMPTATION (LUKE 4:1-2)

- a) It wasn't just one temptation, but Jesus was tempted for forty days.
- b) Temptation can come to any person.
 - i) We do not become immune to temptation once we become Christians.
 - (1) If the devil had the audacity to tempt the very Son of God, then he will tempt us.
 - ii) If we think that we will not be tempted, then we are actually tempting the devil to tempt us.

- (1) The proud Christian tempts the devil to tempt him.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
- iii) To be tempted is not a sin.
 - (1) Hebrews 4:15
 - (2) There is not something inherently wrong in us when we experience temptations.
 - (a) When we are tempted, it means that rather than being in collusion with the devil, we are in collision with the devil.
- c) Temptation can come in any period.
 - i) Luke 4:1
 - (1) Jesus had just been baptized when he experienced the temptation in the wilderness.
 - (a) Luke 3:21-22
 - ii) Some of our greatest temptations will come after some of our highest spiritual experiences.
 - (1) Sometimes people are gloriously blessed in a revival meeting and are praising God, but then they begin to coast.
 - (2) Satan will often come to counter-attack.
 - (3) When we have the approval of Heaven, we will also have the assault of Hell.
 - iii) We have examples in the Bible of those who were sorely tempted after great victories.
 - (1) Elijah saw 450 prophets of Baal defeated on Mount Carmel.
 - (a) Elijah then became backslidden and tempted, running from Jezebel.
 - (b) Elijah even asked the Lord to kill him.
 - (2) Moses experienced great victory leading the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.
 - (a) Later on, Moses was in the wilderness and asked God to kill him.
 - (3) Jonah had been in a revival meeting and saw the entire city of Nineveh repent.
 - (a) Later, Jonah became so backslidden that, as he sat under a gourd vine, he requested that he might die.
- d) Temptation can come in any place.
 - i) The Lord Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, and He overcame.
 - ii) Adam was tempted in a garden, and he fell.
 - iii) Satan does not care whether he comes to us in a garden or in a wilderness.
 - iv) We cannot isolate or insulate ourselves from temptation.
 - (1) We cannot escape temptation by being in any particular place.
- e) Temptation may come at any point.
 - i) Luke 4:2
 - ii) Hebrews 4:15
 - (1) The Lord Jesus knows our weaknesses and is touched by them.
 - (2) Jesus was tempted in all points like we are.

- (a) This is not referring to individual instances of temptation, as in the temptation to run a red light, but refers to the great major points of temptation.
- (b) There are three major points of temptation, and the devil threw all three of these at Jesus in the wilderness; we face these same three today, and will face them for the rest of our lives.
 - (i) 1 John 2:16
 - 1. The lust of the flesh
 - 2. The lust of the eyes
 - 3. The pride of life
- f) Every temptation we face is a component of the three major points of temptation.
 - i) The lust of the flesh
 - (1) These are the sins that we do with our bodies.
 - (a) The flesh is not evil, but it can be made an operation of evil.
 - (2) This deals in the area of physical appetites and actions.
 - (a) Food
 - (b) Sex
 - (c) Alcohol
 - (d) Laziness
 - (e) Violence
 - (3) This deals primarily with the area of “doing.”
 - (a) It deals with our passions.
 - ii) The lust of the eyes
 - (1) Our eyes have an appetite just like our bodies do.
 - (2) This area deals, not with doing, but with “having.”
 - (3) Whereas the lust of the flesh is primarily against the body, the lust of the eyes is a temptation against the soul, the inner person.
 - (a) It deals with our possessions.
 - iii) The pride of life
 - (1) This area deals with “being.”
 - (a) To be somebody.
 - (b) To be a big shot.
 - (c) To have authority, power and respect.
 - (d) To be famous.
 - (e) To get attention.
 - (2) This area deals with our person, with who we are.
- g) How was Jesus tempted?
 - i) The lust of the flesh
 - (1) This temptation was to turn stones into bread.
 - (2) Luke 4:3-4
 - (a) Psalm 119:105
 - (3) This is a temptation to make a god of our passions, whether it be food, sleep, sex, alcohol, games, etc.

- (4) There is nothing wrong with eating bread, but this was a temptation to put the desire of His flesh above the will of God.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 11:24
 - (b) Matthew 6:11
 - (c) Jesus was led of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to fast; He was there by divine appointment.
- (5) Sin is the misuse and abuse of something that is normally right and good.
 - (a) Every sin is a perversion of that which is good.
- (6) Satan was telling Jesus to put bread above the will of God.
 - (a) If we put anything that is normally good above the will of God, then it becomes sin.
 - (i) Matthew 6:33
 - 1. God will not take second place.
- ii) The lust of the eyes
 - (1) This temptation was to have possessions: all the kingdoms of the world.
 - (2) Luke 4:5-8
 - (3) The first Adam had turned the kingdoms of the world over to Satan when he sinned in the garden; now, Satan offered to give it all back to Jesus if He would worship the him.
 - (4) It is not wrong to have things.
 - (a) Passions and possessions are not wrong.
 - (b) Deuteronomy 8:18
 - (c) Exodus 20:15
 - (5) 1 Timothy 6:10
 - (6) One way to determine if the devil is tempting us is to ask ourselves what it is that consumes us.
 - (a) What are your personal goals?
 - (b) What consumes you? What are your greatest energies directed toward?
 - (i) Is it buying a house or car?
 - (ii) Is it retirement?
 - (iii) Is it a particular vacation?
 - (iv) Is it financial security?
 - (v) Or, are you more consumed with the character of your children?
 - (vi) Are you consumed with growing in Christ and sharing the Gospel of Jesus?
 - (7) The devil can take something that is good when it's in second place, and make it bad by putting it in first place.
 - (a) Is there any material possession you own that you would not gladly relinquish for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - (8) We are worshipping Satan anytime we do not put God first.

- (9) Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, but there are many people who will sell out for much less than that.
 - (a) Judas sold out for thirty pieces of silver.
 - (b) Esau sold out for a mess of pottage.
- iii) The pride of life
 - (1) Luke 4:9-12
 - (a) Malachi 3:1
 - (2) Satan tempted Jesus to make a dramatic entrance; to go to the highest point of the temple and just step out, and the angels would undergird Him.
 - (a) In reality, Jesus came humbly, riding on a donkey.
 - (3) We face similar temptations.
 - (a) This is why we think we need new clothes every year, so that others will see us.
 - (b) This is why car advertisements urge us to drive the car that will make our neighbors envious.
 - (c) This is why people gossip; in an attempt to pull someone else down hoping it will elevate themselves.
 - (d) Many people make a god out of their business, not because they need more money, but because they're keeping score.
- h) Our temptations can take a myriad of forms, but they are not new.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 10:13

3) THE PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH

- a) The principle of sonship
 - i) Luke 3:21-22
 - ii) The starting place in overcoming temptation is to be a son or daughter of God.
 - (1) 1 John 3:1
 - iii) Jesus' favorite term for Himself was the Son of Man.
 - (1) He identified with us.
 - (2) Jesus became the Son of Man that we might become sons and daughters of God.
 - iv) Jesus showed us how to overcome Satan, not as God would overcome him, but as man being born of God would overcome him.
 - (1) In order to overcome Satan, we must be born again; we must know the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) The principle of submission
 - i) The Father was well pleased with the Son.
 - (1) Luke 3:22
 - (2) John 8:29
 - (3) The Lord Jesus submitted to the will of the Father.
 - ii) Is the consuming desire of your heart to do the will of God?
 - (1) Are you submitted to God's will?

- (2) Do you really want to know God's will, or do you simply want to escape temptation and do your will?
- iii) Victory is not for rebels.
 - (1) Unless we have bowed the knee to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we have no real hope to overcome Satan.
- c) The principle of spiritual endowment
 - i) Luke 4:1
 - ii) Luke 4:14
 - iii) Luke 4:18
 - iv) Jesus did not overcome Satan as God, though He was God and is God.
 - (1) Jesus overcame Satan as man filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) Jesus did not overcome Satan with the inherent power that He had as Almighty God, but as a man filled with the Spirit.
 - (2) If Jesus had not overcome Satan as man filled with the Spirit, then He could be no example to us.
 - (3) This is why the Bible commands us to be filled with the Spirit of God.
 - v) 1 John 4:4
- d) The principle of Scripture
 - i) Luke 4:4
 - ii) Luke 4:8
 - iii) Luke 4:12
 - iv) When Satan came against Jesus, the Lord Jesus (the submissive Son of God and filled with the Holy Spirit) then took the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to overcome Satan.
 - (1) Ephesians 6:17
 - (2) Hebrews 4:12
 - v) We need to know the Word of God in order to use it.
 - vi) 1 John 2:14
- e) The principle of satisfaction
 - i) John 14:30
 - (1) There was nothing that Satan could offer Jesus.
 - ii) Luke 4:4
 - (1) Jesus had meat to eat that Satan knew not of.
 - (2) Jesus was satisfied already.
 - iii) Luke 4:5-6
 - (1) This was a temptation to obtain a lawful heritage in an unlawful way.
 - (2) The Lord Jesus knew the prophecies.
 - (a) Revelation 11:15
 - (b) Jesus did not have to take a shortcut.
 - (i) Jesus knew that He came from God and was going to God.
 - iv) Temptation is from Satan to satisfy a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way.
 - (1) We do not have to do that.
 - (2) We need to understand who we are in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (3) We can satisfy our passions through serving the Lord Jesus.
 - v) Matthew 5:5
 - (1) The Bible says that all things are ours.
 - vi) We need to understand what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - vii) Jesus knew who He was, what He had and where He was going; and He wasn't susceptible to the deceptions and lies of the devil.
- 4) CONCLUSION
- a) Through sonship, submission, being Spirit-filled, knowing the Word of God and knowing who we are in the Lord Jesus, we can overcome Satan and temptation.
 - b) Jesus is both our example and the power to overcome.
 - c) The first step to overcoming temptation is to be a child of God.
 - i) Do you know the Lord Jesus personally?
 - ii) If not, you can pray to Him today and ask Him to come into your life.
 - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16