

Texts: Matthew 4:1-11

Subject: The Temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ III

INTRODUCTION

1. Temptation/ Testing

- a) They will come
- b) They are to be expected

2. But we need not fear Temptation/ Testing

- a) If we are filled with the Spirit of God
- b) If we live by the Word of God
- c) If we are prayerful
- d) If we walk closely to the Lord

THE FIRST TEMPTATION

1. It was a Temptation involving

- a) The flesh
- b) Carnal needs of the flesh

2. This was defeated easily by the Lord Jesus

- a) We are to live by the Word of God
- b) We do not just think of survival by any means!
- c) We seek to know and to obey the Lord and His word given to us!

THE SECOND TEMPTATION

1. Note again the Cunningness of the Devil

**2. Since the Lord Jesus cited the Lord's Word
The Devil also cited the Scriptures!**

3. What the Devil did

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, 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 shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

'In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

Matthew 4:5-6

- a) He exhibited great power
 - i) He took the Lord Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem
 - ii) The Pinnacle of the Temple may have Kidron Valley down below
- b) He still sought to tempt the Lord Jesus to use (abuse) His power as the Son of God
- c) The challenge was to throw Himself down from the great height of the Temple Pinnacle
- d) If He did that, He would seriously injure Himself or meet His death

4. What the Devil cited

- a) 'He shall give His angels charge over you,'
- b) 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'
- c) This was taken from Psalm 91

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11-12

- d) It would seem that the Devil was citing the Scriptures correctly

- e) It would have to take more than mere citation of the Scriptures to cause the Lord Jesus to fall!

WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD JESUS?

1. What the Lord Jesus did not do

- a) He did not discuss the Scriptures with the Devil
- b) He was not going to explain the Scriptures to Satan
- c) He was not going to correct him for Satan would never be corrected!

2. How may we understand the Ministry of Angels?

- a) Creation of angels

“Who makes His angels spirits
His ministers a flame of fire” Psalm 104:4

- b) Ministry of Angels

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Hebrews 1:14

- c) Angels in the Presence of God
“Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 18:10

3. How did the Lord Jesus see Psalm 91 and the ministry of angels?

- a) He saw through Satan’s ploy
- b) He was misapplying the Scriptures

4. His reply to Satan’s Temptation

Jesus said to him, “It is written again,
‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ” Matthew 4:7

- a) It is written again
 - i) The Lord Jesus knew the Scriptures thoroughly
 - ii) The Scriptures are to be read and understood properly

- iii) The Scriptures are not to be merely cited and applied randomly
 - b) You shall not tempt the LORD your God
 - i) We must not put God to the test
 - ii) This is wrong and it is forbidden!

5. What is putting God to the test?

- a) It is NOT a normal thing to:
 - i) Jump from the pinnacle of the Temple
 - ii) We cannot jump and see if God would come to our rescue by sending angels to save us from injury or death
 - iii) To do this would be to put God to the test!
- b) We are behave/ live
 - i) Responsibly
 - ii) Wisely
 - iii) Prudently
- c) We have clear teachings from the Scriptures how we ought to behave/live
 - i) Angels are not responsible for our foolhardiness
 - ii) If we put ourselves in harm's way, we have no one to blame but ourselves!

CONCLUSION

1. Be challenged to do more than:

- a) Read the Scriptures
- b) Memorise Bible texts
- c) Quote Bible verses

2. Our need

- a) To be clear as to what God has actually said and meant

b) To apply the Scriptures correctly in our life
And to avoid putting God to the test!