

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
LESSON

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Lesson for October 15

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THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 4:1-11.  
OLD TESTAMENT TEXT—For we have not an offering which can be touched by the priest which cannot be touched by us in the feeling of our infirmities, but Jesus in his points of temptation we are, yet not sin—Hebrews 4:15.

Temptation is the common lot of mankind (1 Cor. 10:13). The greatest and most noble of men subject to it; angels were tempted, and our scripture reveals that even Jesus was tempted. We recognize that Jesus was tempted by the Devil (v. 3, 6) and as one without sin (Heb. 4:15); but it is true that He was tempted in points as we are, apart from sin, and that we may learn from His temptation how we may meet and the victory over temptation.

I. What is Temptation?

Temptation is seduction to evil, enticement to wrong. It stands distinguished from trial thus: trial tests, seeks to discover the man's real qualities or character; but temptation persuades to evil, degrades, that it may ruin. God tries; Satan tempts" (A. M. Fairbairn).

Temptation is not, but yields, temptation is sin. Luther said,

"We cannot keep the birds from flying over our heads, but we can keep them from building nests in our hair." Temptation comes from within, that is, from our own lusts (James 1:13, 14). Satan also tempts us (Eph. 6:11). God may permit temptation as a means of proving our faith (James 1:2, 3).

II. How Temptation Works.

It is significant that the temptations of Jesus were along the three-fold line of the temptations of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:6) and the general three-fold temptation of all men, namely, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eyes (1 John 2:16). These three temptations really exhaust Satan's bag of tricks, but he can dress up these three fundamental temptations with almost endless variety.

1. By appealing to the flesh (vv. 3, 4). He observes the normal appetites and desires of a man's body, entices them to a high degree, and suggests an improper method of satisfying them. Hunger is normal and a sign of good health. Jesus had fasted forty days and Satan took advantage of that fact to suggest the use of His divine power to satisfy His hunger. This would involve a denial of His entire mission on earth, namely, the redemption of man by a divine person who had become a real man.

2. By appealing to pride (vv. 5, 6). Satan misappropriated Scripture to tempt Jesus to presumption on the assumption that He was exercising faith. God had promised to keep Him in all his ways" (Ps. 91:11). To cast himself down from the temple was not one of the ways in which Christ was called to walk. Satan comes to us with the same kind of temptation. If He cannot get us to forsake faith, He tempts us to become fanatic and to proudly substitute presumption for faith.

3. By appealing to the eyes (vv. 8, 9). By showing Christ the kingdoms of the world and offering them to Him by the short-cut of a brief act of worship rather than by the way of the cross, Satan tempted Him again. Here the devil showed his true desire that man should worship him rather than God.

III. How to Meet Temptation (vv. 7, 10).

1. By the right use of Scripture. If Jesus needed that weapon, how can we do without it? How can we use Scripture if we do not study it and live it in our hearts?

2. By dependence on God. Every Scripture used by Jesus honored God. We cannot fight Satan in our own strength. To attempt to do so is to fall utterly. The real victory for the Christian is to bring Satan back to the cross where Christ won a decisive victory over him.

3. By denouncing Satan. Jesus sent him on his way. We may do the same in Jesus' name. It is always a serious error to try to argue with Satan or to engage in any discussion with him. Let us meet him with Scripture and with a "Get thee behind me, Satan."

IV. The Result.

Satan left and angels came to minister to Christ. The overcoming of temptation results in peace, victory, and blessing. This is ever so in the life of the believer. Temptation overcome makes us stronger to meet the next temptation, and also enables us to help our weaker brethren.

Framing Our Lives

Religion does not consist in the performance of certain ceremonial acts at specified times, outside which acts and times it has no place; but consists in framing our whole life, and all our acts, upon a distinct view of our position as created beings, charged by the fact of our creation, with duties both to our fellow creatures and to our Creator.

Edward Denison.

# COME TO CHURCH

## Hidden Forces In Humanity Determine World's Destiny

### Spiritual Struggles Shape Material Events—Modern Meaning of the Temptation of Jesus—Problem of a Personal Devil.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

instead of to sink lower.

The Real Battleground

What happens in a person's soul is the only really important concern in life. Our world is asked at war today because we have adopted a contrary policy. We put external things first. We are deaf over possessions. Greedy nations have pushed their national lusts even to the point of war. Individuals conceive of success only in terms of acquisition.

All too slowly—with the assent of the psychologists, and the agreement of really thoughtful public personages—we are perceiving that it is the spiritual side of life which truly matters. Our resources and replenishments must come from God-guided, God-girded, and God-guarded souls. There is no material project before any nation today that can effect the great change needed to save civilization. Only individuals whose lives are yielded to God can do so.

He Would Not Compromise

Three major temptations came to Jesus in the wilderness, and they all spelled compromise. First, and crassest, and freighted with immediacy to a hungry body, was the temptation to turn stones into bread. "A man must live!" is the common cry, although the noblest figures on the panorama of history, with Jesus in the foreground, have shown that it is more important to keep one's soul than to continue to exist. Nobody is fit to live who has not learned to subordinate desire to duty, and to die for things more important than life. That is why we have our valhalla of heroes, patriots and martyrs. That is the truth sustaining millions in this present war.

As real as the wilderness was a real wilderness, bare, brown, desolate, with beasts of prey lurking about into which Jesus departed alone. An American clergyman was recently captured by bandits and kept hidden in the caves of this region of waste. From Jerusalem's walls one may look to the south and to the east and behold this mountainous desolation of the Wilderness of Judea.

As real as the wilderness was the temptation of Jesus. It was no staged performance, no make-believe.

"As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean."

Thi lonely, hunger-emaciated man could have succumbed to temptation, even as you and I. He was sustained by no powers that are not at the command of any one of us. He was "tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin."

Is There a Devil?

Satan has gone out of fashion in our day; but not out of business. For the word "sin" we have substituted "self-expression." Instead of "resist the devil," we say "obey that impulse." And out of this new philosophy of the liberty of human nature to be its worst as well as its best self has developed such an era of vulgarity, shallowness, sensuality and crime, as this western world has never before known. The new world war is a natural sequence of the sinning by nations and by individuals.

There are two horns of this dilemma of the devil. Either we must accept the Bible's explicit teaching of a malign and powerful personality, the perpetual foe of God and of good, "the Prince of the Air," who incites us humans to do wrong; or else we must admit that human nature in its innermost essence, has diabolical tendencies. I, for one, am not willing to admit that my fellow men are so devilish that they can accomplish the evil that is in the world today without the incitement and support of a Satan.

As Billy Sunday used to say, "I know there is a devil, because I've done business with him." Everybody with the slightest capacity for self-analysis knows, with Paul, that there are two forces contending for the mastery of his soul. Jesus demonstrated, for all time, that the God in man is mightier than the Satan in man. Out of the wilderness temptation emerges the tremendous truth that God enables man to live on higher levels and to be his best self. A temptation may be an opportunity to rise higher.

Christian Church

Kenneth Timmons, pastor  
Bible School, 9:30 a. m. Fred Schriener, superintendent.

Morning worship and Communion, 10:30 a. m.

Wednesday night Bible study at 7:30 p. m. at church.

The Sunday School Lesson for October 15 is "The Temptation of Jesus."—Matthew 4:1-11.

Young People's Meeting 6:30.

Evening service 7:30.

Mid-week prayer service, Wednesday, 7:30.

Men's Bible study hour, Friday, 6:30.

## CHURCHES

### Eighth St. U. B. Church

L. J. Martin, Pastor

9:30 Sunday School.

10:30 Junior Church.

10:30 Devotions.

11:00 Sermon.

6:30 Christian Endeavor.

7:30 Evangelistic Services.

7:30 Wednesday night Prayer services.

Mann, president and leader.

7:30 Evening Worship; candlelight worship service and installation of the officers of the Epworth League. The Adult Chorus Choir will lead in the Congregational hymn singing. Sermon theme: "What is Christianity".

Wednesday 7:00 p. m. Prayer and Bible Hour.

This church desires to minister to every religious need and in Christ's name bid you come to its services.

### Church of the Nazarene

7th and Marshall Streets

Paul Brandyberry, Pastor

9:30 A. M. Sunday school. Doyle's Lyte Sup.

10:30 A. M. Morning Worship.

Sermon by the Rev. M. T. Brandyberry of Ontario, California

2:30 P. M. "Singing Preachers Quartet" WOWO.

7:00 P. M. Young People's service.

7:00 P. M. Junior Society.

7:30 P. M. Evangelistic service.

Sermon by the Rev. M. T. Brandyberry.

7:30 P. M. Wednesday. Regular midweek prayer meeting.

### Zion Reformed Church

Charles M. Prugh, Th. D. Minister

Program for Annual Mission Festival

Church School 9 A. M.

T. L. Becker, Sup't.

Morning Worship 10 A. M.

Sermon by the Rev. L. W. Goebel, D. D. President of the General Synod.

Music by the combined choirs of the church.

Afternoon Services 2:30 P. M.

Address by Dr. L. W. Goebel, Special music by the Senior choir, and Mary Whittner. Fort Wayne solo.

Missionary Society meeting Wednesday 2:00 p. m.

Communion announcement Friday afternoon and evening

Vestry meeting Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock.

Catechism classes every Saturday 8:30 a. m.

### First United Brethren Church

Corner Ninth and Madison Sts.

G. T. Rossetti, Minister

Sunday School at 9:15 a. m. Roy Mumma, superintendent.

Divine worship services 10:30 a. m.

Early services with celebration of holy communion at 8:30 a. m.

Holy communion will again be celebrated next Sunday.

Senior and Junior Walther League educational and business meetings Tuesday 7:30 p. m.

Missionary Society meeting Wednesday 2:00 p. m.

Communion announcement Friday afternoon and evening

Vestry meeting Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock.

Catechism classes every Saturday 8:30 a. m.

### First Evangelical Church

George S. Lozier, Minister

15 A. M. Sunday School.

Mr. Earl Fuhrman, superintendent.

10:10 A. M. Divine Worship. Sermon theme: "Not Your Own"

6:00 p. m. Christian Endeavor.

7:00 p. m. Sunday evening fellowship.

Men's Rally. Special Program Centennial Celebration, October 9 to 15. Mass meetings will be held at 7:30 P. M. each night as follows:

Monday. Decatur Calvary Evangelical Church.

Tuesday. Linn Grove Calvary Evangelical Church.

Wednesday. Mt. Carmel Evangelical church.

Friday. Berne Trinity Evangelical church.

### First Methodist Church

Monroe at Fifth Street

Ralph Waldo Gralham, Minister

Rally Month: October

9:30 Morning worship: A Unified

Service of worship and Sunday Spe-

cial Music by the Young People's

Choir under the direction of Mrs.

W. J. Krick. Junior Church and Spe-

cial message for the children. Nur-

series for the infants. The pastor will

speak on the theme: "Cleansing the

Stream" Opportunity for uniting

with the Church as well as making

the best self. A temptation may

be an opportunity to rise higher.

### First Presbyterian Church

Glen Marshall, Pastor

The unified service begins

promptly at 9:30 and closes at

11:20.

An installation service will be