

OUR SAVIOR'S RESPONSE TO TEMPTATION

After forty days of fasting in the wilderness, our Lord was tempted by the devil. Three of those temptations, and our Savior's responses to them, are recorded in Luke 4. The three responses by Christ should be comforting to us – helping us see that we can escape the temptations put before us by Satan (I Corinthians 10:13).

Satan first tempts Jesus by appealing to his human desire for food, asking Jesus to turn stone into bread. Jesus responded by saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:3-4). Life on earth should not be centered on carnal things. Lay up treasures in heaven, Jesus said, and not on earth (Matthew 6:20). If we make it our priority to seek God and to do His will, everything else will fall into place (Matthew 6:33).

Satan tempts Jesus a second time with power. If Jesus would bow down to him, Satan would "reward" Jesus with great power and authority. Again, our Lord replied, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Luke 4:8). Christianity is about priorities – deciding which things in our lives are more important than others. For Christians, let it always be said that our goal is to serve God and worship Him alone. As Joshua stated regarding him and his family, they would serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).

Finally, Satan tempts Jesus by asking Him to jump from a high point, only to be spared death by virtue of His deity. Jesus replies, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Luke 4:12). We must be reminded – Jesus is our Lord and He is our God. And just as Satan was powerless against Jesus Christ, so will Satan lose all power in our lives if we trust in Jesus and render obedience to Him in all we do.

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