

## Lesson 04: The Temptation of Jesus

**Objective:** To know that in every temptation there is a right way and a wrong way, and we must *choose* the right way.

**Background:** The baptism of Jesus marked the end of His 30 years of private life and the beginning of His public ministry (Luke 3:23). The baptism was, in a sense, an inauguration of His messianic mission, He was then *empowered* by the Spirit and *endorsed* by the Father. The temptation that followed determined the nature of His mission, whether He would be a popular messiah of the Jewish nation or a suffering messiah --the Savior of the world.

**Instruction:** Prayerfully and carefully read over Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-11.

### Let's Think:

1. a. When did the Temptation take place in the life of Jesus? (Read also Mk:1:12)
- b. What did the tempter know about Jesus? Read carefully Mt3:16-17. ("If" means "since" in Mt 4:3 and 6 in Greek.)
2. a. At what point did the tempter suggest that Jesus turn the stone into bread? Had Jesus used His power to *serve* His own needs? By the way, was it wrong for Jesus to do so? Explain.
- b. Why did Jesus reject the idea of becoming a "bread" messiah? Based on Jesus' answer is bread the answer to man's basic needs? Explain. (Mt 4: 4).
3. a. How did the tempter change his tactics the second time? What did he suggest and why is it tempting God? (It is a 450 feet jump.) Read Mt 4: 4 and 6 carefully.
- b. Again, why did Jesus reject the idea of becoming a "miracle-working" messiah or becoming a national hero, the Jews had been looking for?
3. a. Finally, what dazzling offer did the tempter make with a "little price" tag?
- b. How did the tempter try to alter God's plan of "crown through cross"? Did Jesus compromise? What does His answer reveal about His goal? (v.10) Wherein lay the secret of Jesus' victory and Adam's defeat? Explain.
5. a. Has the tempter finished with Jesus? (Read Lk. 4: 13).
- b. What do you learn about the character, the strategy of the tempter through this study? List them.
6. a. Examine carefully Jesus' pattern of victory and identify the decisive factors.
- b. Does the study of the Word of God take on a new meaning in the light of this study? Explain. (Read also Heb.4: 12; Eph. 6: 17).
7. a. Is temptation always a choice between good and evil? Give your example.
- b. What is one temptation you often face? Find out the tempter's strategy and prayerfully decide how you can follow Jesus' example to overcome it?

**Let's Remember:** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)