

study notes

1. Read and discuss Matthew 4:1–11. Describe Satan's methods of temptation. What was he offering to Jesus?

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2. What is the example that Jesus sets for us in His response to Satan?

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3. Was Jesus tempted more than three times? Read Luke 4:1–13 and Hebrews 4:15 and discuss.

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4. Why did Jesus allow Himself to be tempted? Read and discuss Hebrews 2:17–18.

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sermon notes

OCTOBER 31, 2010

TODAY'S SERMON: TRICK OR TREAT—TEMPTATION & SIN

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:13–14 & 4:17; GENESIS 3:1 & 6; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12–13 (NIV)

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1 Temptation and sin

The word *temptation* in Hebrew is the word *nasah*. It means to test. The Greek word is *peirazo*—to test one's faith.

The word *sin* in Hebrew is the word *chata*. It means to go wrong. The Greek word is *hamartia*—to miss the mark.

When you know you are supposed to do good and you don't, you sin.

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Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

James 4:17 (NIV)
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2 Who tempts us?

Not God.

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When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1:13 (NIV)
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The enemy tempts. (Ref. Genesis 3:1)

We tempt ourselves.

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but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

James 1:14 (NIV)
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3 There are consequences to giving into temptation.

SATAN'S TACTICS:

- He twists God's Word.

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Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Genesis 3:1 (NIV)
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- He lies.

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You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44 (NIV)
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- He prowls around looking for someone to devour.

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Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)
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This is how we tempt ourselves: We see it, we want it, and we get it.

- Achan (Ref. Joshua 7:21)
- David (Ref. 2 Samuel 11:3-4)
- Sin cost Eve a perfect relationship with God. (Ref. Genesis 3)
- Sin cost Achan his life. (Ref. Joshua 7:25)
- Sin cost David his son. (Ref. 2 Samuel 12:18)

4 Not giving into temptation is a victory.

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Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (NIV)
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Every temptation you go through you can handle.

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So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NIV)
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OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

- Joseph defeated temptation by running away from it.

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But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

Genesis 39:12b (NIV)
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- Jesus defeated temptation by speaking God's Word. (Ref. Matt. 4:1-11)
- Sin cost God His Son.

Question: What has sin cost you?