

ENDURING TEMPTATION (1)

*Overcoming Sin & Temptation (4)
The First Temptation: Not On Bread Alone*

I. Introduction

- A. We've established that God said that we can resist temptation; in fact, **'master'** it.
 - I. It is only those who are willing to do the admittedly difficult but effective things that God demands from us, who will learn to "master it".
- B. So as we study on how to master temptation, who better to look to than Jesus?
- C. Jesus absolutely faced temptation, but got thru it perfectly.
- D. How does Jesus do this? The first temptation gives us one aspect to focus on (Mt. 4:1-11).

II. Tested In The Wilderness

- A. He quotes from language that Moses writes while Israel was in the wilderness (Deut. 6:10-15; 8:3).
- B. See the connections of how God's children (Israel & Jesus) were wandering in the wilderness (Mt. 4:1-2).
 - I. Jesus in wilderness for 40 days, Israel was for 40 years.
 - 2. They were led/guided by God into the wilderness.
 - 3. Each were tempted in the same ways.
 - 4. We too are, in a sense, being tempted throughout the wilderness - while we look to our heavenly home (1 Cor. 10:1-12; cf. Phil. 3:20-21).
- C. Satan tempts, God tests (Mt. 4:1, 3_ "tempted/tempter").
 - I. The greek word used in Matthew 4 is same word used, but translated as "test" in these passages (John 6:6; 2 Cor. 13:5; Rev. 2:2, 10; 3:10).
 - 2. God cannot be tempted with evil nor does He tempt others with evil (Jas. 1:13-14).
 - a) Grow in God - don't allow Satan to use your failure (Jas. 1:2-4).

III. Satan's First Tactic

- A. Jesus' answer reveals what the temptation was: Satan was trying to get Jesus to act outside of His Father's will (Deut. 8:2-3).
 - I. We cannot try to meet legitimate needs through illegitimate (unscriptural) ways.
- B. The temptation is aimed at the "lust of the flesh" (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
 - I. Jesus shows us that we don't have to feed the lust of the flesh, no matter how dire the circumstance (Heb. 4:15; cf. Mt. 4:4).
- C. Satan strikes at opportune moments (Mt. 4:2; Lk. 4:13).

IV. Jesus' First Answer

- A. Jesus endures by remembering His Father in every moment (Mt. 4:4; Heb. 12:1-3).
- B. He truly believed that God was all He needed (Mt. 4:4; Jn. 4:34).
- C. Jesus was never caught off guard when tempted, because He was always thinking on heavenly things (Phil. 4:8-9; Col. 3:1-2).

V. Conclusion

- A. Will you be caught off guard? Or have you been relentlessly working like Jesus did?

- B. If you're not currently working on that, start studying God's word, start building that trust & resolve now.
- C. The first step towards being prepared for that is becoming a Christian.

State: Location (date)

