



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 36

Lesson Title: Overcome Temptation

Take Home Point: Through Jesus, we can choose God's way when tempted.

Warm-Up:

For many years, children in our society have been warned not to accept gifts from strangers or agree to ride in a stranger's car. They are given specific instruction not to even speak to strangers. From an adult's perspective, this is a safe and straightforward way to deal with the situation. But it is much more difficult for a child, particularly a younger child. Most children have a natural bent toward wanting to help people; it is especially satisfying to help a big person. It's just what they want to do. Then there is the added problem of a child simply forgetting instructions they've been given. So parents and other grownups are constantly seeking simple, useful, easy-to-remember ways for children to resist the temptations presented to them.

Read: Luke 4:1-13 and James 4:7

Observation (What happened?):

Who led Jesus into the desert wilderness?

What did Jesus use to resist and refute Satan's temptation?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Do you think that Jesus was capable of succumbing to Satan's temptations?

What do you see as the common thread running through all three temptations?

Insight:

What is temptation? While the actual specific form of temptation to sin will vary from person to person, all temptation revolves around one main idea – what I want, not what God wants. That was the problem in Eden when sin first entered the world. We all have places in our lives that Satan attacks either directly or through the world around us. It was no different for Jesus. Satan was tempting him to gain by his own will the lordship he would otherwise receive only through his suffering and death. The possibility of Jesus falling to temptation had to be genuine or Hebrews 4:14-16 could not really be true. And Jesus could not have been the Savior of the world had he succumbed. He knew this was what his Father wanted, so it's what he did, even though we know from verse 13 that Satan continued to tempt him throughout his earthly life. He did this using discernment and discipline; discernment in seeing the temptations for what they were, and discipline in using God's word and God's strength to resist. It's how we can do it, too.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one specific area of your life where Satan tempts you. How do you use God's word to resist his temptations?

Pray for the children in your small group to recognize Satan's tricks and to depend on Jesus for strength to resist.

Meet the Amazing Jesus..., Lesson 36