

11. Temptations in the Wilderness

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

11. Temptations in the Wilderness

- a) There were three temptations. The devil is very clever, but the Lord knew exactly how to resist him. The first temptation was maybe the easiest, because it was just that the Lord was very hungry. Of course, He could make the stones into bread for Himself. But what He said to the devil was that listening to every truth in the Lord's Word is much more important than just eating. If He had made the stones into bread, that might have been selfish, because lots of other people were hungry too. (You might tell children that later the Lord would feed thousands of people with very little food, because then He was helping others, not Himself).
- b) The second temptation (the third in Matthew) seems strange. How could the devil give the kingdoms of the world to the Lord? You see, the devil was trying to say that he had more power than the Lord. He, the devil, could rule the people on earth. If the Lord wanted to save them, then He, the Lord, had to worship the devil. Of course, the Lord wouldn't agree.
- c) The final temptation was again a test to see if the Lord could be selfish, throwing Himself off the temple so that angels would come and save Him. But the Lord knew that He shouldn't do that. It would be showing off.

- d) Each time, the Lord used the Word itself to overcome the devil. This is a most important point. We are to use the Word when we're tempted too. If you're tempted to steal, remember that the Lord said, "You shall not steal." When you remember that, the angels give you the strength to overcome the evil spirits.
- e) Remember that the devil tried to use the Word too. He quoted from it, to tempt the Lord. But the Lord used the right truths instead.



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The Lord Says No to the Devil

After Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There He was tested by the devil for forty days. During this time, He ate nothing. When the days were ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, say to this stone that it be made into bread.” And Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written that a person shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

Then the devil, taking Him up into a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to Him, “If You will worship me, all this shall be Yours.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil brought Jesus to Jerusalem and put Him on the top of the temple and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written, ‘He shall give His angels charge over You to keep you safe. And they shall catch You so that You do not hit Your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered the devil and said, “It is said: ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” When the devil stopped testing Jesus, he left Jesus for a while.

Luke 4

