

# The Gospel of Mark – Part 5 | Jesus is Tempted (2 of 2) | 5/26/19

- **Satan's tactics for temptation (continued)**

- Satan will twist the truth to tempt us into sin. | Matthew 4:5-7
  - Not only will Satan tempt us by enticing our sinful desires, but He will also twist the truth to get us to disobey God.
    - Everything that Satan says is a lie, but he will also use "truth" (even Scripture) by twisting it to entice us to sin.
  - **Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple intending to get Jesus to jump off of the temple to force God to save Him.**
    - He again was wanting Jesus to "prove" who He was by saying, "IF you are the Son of God," while Satan knew that He was.
    - These tactics were designed to have Jesus sin against the Father.
  - **Read Matthew 4:5-7**
  - Satan quoted Scripture but twisted its meaning.
    - In this instance, Satan used Scripture to attempt to get Jesus to sin.
      - He quoted from Psalm 91:11-12
    - However, He twisted its meaning and was trying to get Jesus to test the Father by jumping off from the rooftop to force Him to save Him.
      - It is true that God would have saved Him, but that was not the will of the Father, and He certainly would have been testing Him.
  - **Jesus responded by also quoting Scripture that one must not put God to the test.**
    - Jesus, of course, seeing right through Satan's tactics replied that to do as Satan asked would mean that Jesus would be putting God to the test.
    - To do this would be a sin, and of course, Jesus did not do it.
    - **To put God to the test was the fault of the Israelites whom Jesus is referring too.**
      - After God freed the Israelites from their Egyptian captivity, they immediately began to complain because of their perception of the lack of food and water.
      - But it wasn't just that; they were showing their complete lack of faith in God.
        - Exodus 17:7
          - "And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"
        - They tested God with "Is the LORD among us or not?"
      - **Why is testing God in this way a sin?**
  - **Satan still uses this tactic today to twist the truth to lead us into temptation.**
    - While it may be obvious to pick out a lie or something blatantly false, when the truth is twisted, this can sometimes be harder to recognize.
    - Scripture warns us of this
      - Acts 20:29-30
        - "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men **speaking twisted things**, to draw away the disciples after them."

- 2 Peter 2:1-3a
  - “But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will **secretly bring** in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the **way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words...**”
- Satan influences those in the world who will listen to him and will use them to turn people away from God and unto sin.
  - Examples:
    - God will forgive you regardless of your sin, so live as you please.
    - Entice people to twist the Scriptures to suit their desires.
      - Does the Scripture “really” say that?
    - False teachers who use the Scripture but twist its meaning and lead people into a false religion.
    - Focus solely on receiving God’s blessings and ignoring its command to put others before ourselves. (It’s all about me).
  - **What are some ways that you have seen Satan twist the truth in our world today?**
- Satan will tempt us with the good things of the world. | Matthew 4:8-10
  - In the 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation, Satan tempts Jesus with worldly power, and all that is within it.
    - **Read Matthew 4:8-10**
    - **Satan demonstrates that he does have power here on earth.**
      - While he has been defeated with Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, he still has power in this world until Christ return, and he is thrown into the lake of fire.
        - 1 Peter 5:8b
          - “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
      - All those who come to Christ he cannot take their spirit, they are bought and paid for by the cross.
      - But that does not mean he does not have any influence in the world today.
      - **The Scriptures tell us he does have power here.**
        - 1 John 5:19
          - “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
        - 2 Corinthians 4:4
          - “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
  - **Satan used this power to try to tempt Jesus with worldly power and material possessions if He would worship him.**
    - Satan’s offer here was a trade.
      - He would give Jesus all the kingdoms and wonderful things that are in the world if He would bow and worship him.





- But if we do not pray, we lose that channel of communication and the protection that comes from it.
  - **A difficult circumstance is challenging to overcome if we are not in prayer.**
  - **How powerful has prayer been for you when you have been tempted?**
- **Jesus overcame Satan with Scripture.**
  - Satan attempted to use Scripture to tempt Jesus into to sin.
  - Of course, he was twisting the meaning because Scripture would never cause one, especially Jesus, to sin.
  - **But Jesus always replied to Satan's' temptation with Scripture.**
  - If we live our lives by the Scripture, it is tough for Satan's temptations to be successful.
  - **The truth of Scripture can always overcome evil.**
    - Hebrews 4:12
      - "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
  - **Have you experienced the power of the Scripture to where it helped you through a time or season of temptation?**
- **With every temptation that we receive, Christ provides a way out.**
  - **He has promised never to allow us to be tempted more than we can handle and that He will provide us a way of escape.**
    - 1 Corinthians 10:13
      - "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also **provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.**
  - This escape is very comforting, knowing that no matter how bad our situation is that He will provide a way of escape.
  - **The key is that we must LOOK for it.**
  - If all we look at is the temptation and the subsequent sin, then we will be blind to the way out that He has provided for us.
  - **Have you experienced the paths of escape during a time you were under great temptation?**
  - **If you reflect on previous temptations where you failed to resist, do you recall seeing the "way out" but chose to ignore it?**
- Jesus was comforted by the angels. | Matthew 4:11
  - Mark 1:13b
    - "...And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him"
  - Jesus, after going through this, was comforted by the angels.
  - And we too will be comforted by Christ when we endure the temptation of the devil.
    - We must never think that we are alone, that Christ is not with us.
    - Because during every temptation, during every trial, Christ is with us via the Holy Spirit.
    - If we think for one moment that we cannot resist, we must turn to Him and seek His comfort and guidance.
    - If we embrace the Spirit, we can resist temptation.