

**The Gospel of Matthew #19**

**THREE LESSONS FROM THE TEMPTATIONS AS A WHOLE**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**3 Lessons: 3 Ss:**

I. **Simultaneously** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)

The word means both

Gen 22:1 God **tested** Abraham (devil **tempted**)

God **tested** Job; Satan **tempted**

James 1:2-3; 12-15 God **tests**; Satan **tempts** (cf. 4:7)

Eg: II Cor 12:7ff thorn from *both* God and Satan!

So Satan tempts Jesus; same events are **testing** to prove Him the faithful Son of God

His temptation involves **suffering** (Heb 2:18)

II. **Satan's strategy:** build on a \_\_\_\_\_ desire and twist it

James 1:12-15 not possible with Jesus, so he must appeal to a legitimate desire.

He will do that with you too

Desires:

- Provision of needs
- Protection to see God's Hand
- Procure His Kingdom

Jesus is able to counter these temptations because He has a superior desire in each case: trusting and honoring the Father

So with us: the "expulsive power of a new affection"

III. **S** \_\_\_\_\_ was how He answered in each case

A. Not His own thoughts but quotes the Bible

B. Quotes **aptly** because He was **meditating** on it

Recent

All three quotes are from Deut 6-8: to Israel in the wilderness. He was meditating on a passage appropriate to His needs

(Also need to study systematically the *whole* Bible. Often I find help in a passage that I did not think was all that relevant to my immediate situation)

C. Quotes **accurately** because He had **memorized** it

The lost art of Scripture memory

The value of memorizing chunks

Sum up the lessons:

1. Expect to be tempted/tested as part of the Spirit's work in you

Expect that will involve \_\_\_\_\_. Be willing, for the greater good.

2. Expect it to appeal to your \_\_\_\_\_ desires and take you off guard

Satan is malicious and clever

But the Spirit can use that to sanctify your desires!

3. Expect that you will need to know Scripture if you are going to be able to resist.

Develop a systematic plan of **study** to understand

Develop a system for **memorizing** to use at a moment's notice

Yet always remember that your strength is in Christ, not your strategy. His forgiveness & power (Mt 3:11)