

Theme: Adam stood in our place in the garden and grasped at being like God. Jesus stood in our place in the wilderness and there overcame the onslaught of the devil's temptations. Our champion's victory brings strength and power to obey the Word of God.

Background: Turn our attention to one who stood fast in face of temptation as our Champion!

Introduction: When was the last time you had a whole day where you didn't face temptation? Never? I thought so.

I. Jesus' Temptation: A Stark Contrast with Adam's

A. The target

1. The son of Adam (Luke 3:38)
2. Son of God (Luke 3:22)

B. The Setting

1. Garden vs. Wilderness
2. Without the marks of sin vs. World with 1000's or years in bondage to sin
3. In full strength vs. In great weakness
4. One attempt vs. Multiple, on-going temptations

C. Three crucial attacks

1. Deny the Father's goodness and care?
 - a. *If you are the Son of God?* (sowing doubt)
 - b. Tempted to trust his own power and plans
2. Receive the Kingdom from Satan, *not* from the Father
 - a. Is it Satan's to give?
 - 1) Yes. And no. He is the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - 2) It is Satan to whom the world bows down.
 - b. What is he offering? – Authority and power to reign *without suffering!* (Psalm 2:8; Luke 9:22 & 24:26)
 - c. What is he asking? *You just worship me!*
3. Put God to the test
 - a. Make God *prove* that Jesus is the Son of God
 - b. Reveal yourself as Messiah

NOTE: Satan can appear as an angel of light, twisting the scriptures to trap the unsuspecting.
(2 Corinthians 11:14)

II. Jesus' Conquest of Temptation

A. Three critical answers

1. With the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13; 6:16)
2. Obeying the Word of God
 - a. Surpassing the obedience of Adam (and Israel!)
 - b. Overcoming the failures of those who came before him

B. The turning point in the history of salvation!

1. Fulfilling a promise to crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15)
2. Messianic Victory – 3-fold!
 - a. Jesus will *not* deny God's goodness or care.
 - b. Jesus will *not* give to Satan what belongs to God alone.
 - c. Jesus will *not* put God to the test.

C. The on-going battle – Jesus was tested/tempted throughout his ministry

(Luke 11:18; 9:38-42; 22:3-6, 28)

III. A Mirror of Israel's Temptations

- A. Feed us! (Numbers 11)
- B. Give us a King like all the nations. (1 Samuel 8:5)
- C. Make God prove his faithfulness, his promises
(Numbers 14:41, 42; I Samuel 4:1-11; Habakkuk 1:12-2:1)

IV. Model of Our Temptations

- A. Providing for ourselves: What do I need to be truly content?
- B. Rulers of our own "kingdoms": Serving our own plans rather than the Lord's (Mark 8:36)
- C. Putting God to the test: "Lord, if you really love me you will _____." (fill in the blank)

Questions: Is God's Word and promise and provision for us "sufficient?" Is God's Word deeply embedded in your life and thoughts so that you can combat the distortions of the evil one?

V. Our Champion Representative

- A. Israel's victorious champion
- B. Binding the strongman (Luke 11:14-23)
 - 1. Decisive battle is won (Luke 10:18)
 - 2. Clean up is underway. Jesus is accomplishing salvation.

Conclusion: Our battle with temptation rages on. But Jesus has overcome temptation. He has bound the strongman. His power is broken. In Christ we can see sin put to death in us. We are strengthened by the Spirit that he now gives, to stand fast in the face of temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)