

Guided Bible Study

The Second Temptation

Luke 4:5-8

- 5 And the devil,
taking him up into an high mountain,
shewed unto him all the kingdoms
of the world in a moment of time.
- 6 And the devil said unto him,
"All this power will I give thee,
and the glory of them:
for that is delivered unto me;
and to whomsoever I will I give it.
- 7 If thou therefore wilt worship me,
all shall be thine.
- 8 And Jesus answered and said unto him,
"Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written,
Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,
and him only shalt thou serve.

Key Words _____

power = (exousia) the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege); the power of rule or government
glory = (doxa) a most glorious condition, most exalted state
worship = (proskuneo) to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
serve = (latreuo) to render religious service or homage, to worship

Guided Study

(Download and complete Discipleship Studybook Three to acquaint yourself with Bible Study Methods and Principles for Bible Interpretation.)

verse 5

1. Circle how many of the kingdoms the devil showed Jesus.
2. Why did the devil tempt Jesus in this way?
3. What area in our human nature does this temptation appeal to?

verse 6

1. Describe the elements of this temptation. Would you be tempted by these things? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. When and how were the *power* and *glory* of the nations delivered to Satan?
3. What is significant about the fact that the devil owns the nations and can give it to whomever he wants? (*Notice how Jesus and the apostle Paul describe the devil in John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2*)

verse 7

1. **Underline** the condition set forth by the devil in this verse.
2. What does this condition imply?
3. Why does the devil desire that this condition be met?
4. How does the devil set forth this condition toward us?

verse 8

1. Contrast Jesus' response, "*Get thee behind me, Satan*", with verse 7.
2. Paraphrase Jesus' response to this temptation.
3. Some have suggested that Jesus referred to Himself when He mentioned the "*Lord thy God*". If so, what is He saying to the devil?
4. What is Jesus saying to us in this passage?

Principles & Truths

This passage of Scripture teaches that ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Applications:

In light of the Principles & Truths learned, I will ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Jesus Tempted by Sight

Luke 4:5-8

(Complete the Guided Study before reading this Study to gain your own personal insights into the passage.)

Temptations come through various channels, one of which is our eyes. There is some truth to the axiom, "Out of sight out of mind". Our depraved hearts are easily stimulated to desire things our eyes see, and it is this weakness that Satan sought to exploit in this second temptation found in Luke 4:5-8. Below are three principles to help us stand when tempted in this way.

1. Satan Will Offer the World to Gain Our Soul

"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world."

Jesus was born to be King. So stated the angel Gabriel to Mary, echoed months later by the angelic host at His birth. And Satan was listening. How else do you explain this temptation? The devil knew God's purpose for Jesus and sought to derail the Almighty's plan!

From a precipice, Satan instantly displayed all the kingdoms of the world for Jesus to see. How was this possible? I don't know. But I do know that Satan will go to great lengths to capture our hearts. He will array before us all the glitter of this world, be it gem, metal or flesh, to derail our lives and send it crashing in a heap of self-indulgence. We will be promised instant happiness, instant power or instant fame. He will offer the world as bait, eager for us to bite.

Be not deceived, the devil knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what entices us ... what catches our eyes ... and will be only too eager to oblige. Be alert, be vigilant for the predator of our souls is constantly on the prowl, and only the attentive mind and resolute heart will enlighten our eyes to see through the devil's schemes.

2. "The Devil is in the Details"

"And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.'"

The offer was tempting indeed. To gain all the authority and splendour of the kingdoms instantly, and easily. No pain, no waiting. Why not, since it would all be His in the end anyway, right? Why do it God's way when the devil's way is so much quicker? Don't the ends justify the means? Absolutely not!

"If it sounds too good to be true, it is!" The "devil is in the details", or in this case, in the fine print. Don't sign the contract until you've read the entire offer. And that's exactly what Jesus did. The fine print ... that's where people get caught! Oh for sure He did not deny the devil's right to give away the kingdoms, for they were his. But the price was too high. The fine print ... "if you will worship me".

Jesus could have all the kingdoms of the world if He would only worship the devil. When you see the offer in its entirety it quickly loses its luster. Gain the world but lose your soul? No Way! Nothing is worth being subject to Satan for. Nothing! Including the world! Would all temptations be so plainly evident. But we lose sight of the fine print, and we get caught. Next time, read the fine print. That's where the real deal is revealed!

3. That Which We Worship is That Which We Will Serve

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Jesus, full of the Spirit of God, discerned the scheme of the devil. And His response was fitting. "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." But the devil's temptation said nothing about serving, you ask? Oh but it had everything to do with it!

Temptations are contests of power. Either we will serve God or we will serve the temptor. One way or the other, we will be in subjection. Jesus knew, if we do not, that that which we worship inevitably becomes that which we serve. Satan wants to rule, and he is looking for subjects! Every time we give in to temptation and sin, we in essence subject ourselves to his rule over our lives! We may deny it, but it's true. That is why Jesus responded as He did. He knew the reality of the temptation and He refused to bend His knees to the evil one.

"God, open our eyes to the spiritual battle in every temptation." The only solution is to submit first to our God and Savior Jesus Christ and to give Him all our worship so that there is none left to give to the devil!

Think!

- 1. Identify those things Satan uses to tempt you through your sight.*
- 2. How will you thwart his attempts to tempt you in these areas?*
- 3. How does being aware of the "fine print" help us resist temptation?*
- 4. How do we end up serving the things we worship? What examples can you cite?*

Affirmations

(Recite Aloud Daily)

- 1. If I Gain the World and Lose My Soul, I Gain Nothing!**
- 2. I Will Guard What My Eyes See and What My Heart Desires.**
- 3. God Alone is Worthy of My Worship and My Obedience.**
- 4. I Will Worship and Serve Only the Lord My God!**