

TITLE AND NUMBER: 227 Jesus overcomes temptation

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Luke 4:1-12



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.' The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, 'It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:37-39

What does the Bible passage tell us?

In this Bible reading we read about how Jesus responded to temptation. The devil tempts Him three times when He was very hungry. I think most of us can think of times when we have been hungry, cold, or tired. It is then that we may have succumbed to temptation and done or said something which we later regretted.

The devil is very clever and uses the word 'if' each time. Twice we read, 'If you are the Son of God;' then the third time, "if you worship me." The devil is using true statements but twisting them into untruths. Jesus responds with words of scripture; he overcomes the temptations. Sometimes when we hear a critical negative voice in our heads, the doubts also begin with the word 'If'.

So, what can help us when we are tempted or feel like we are under spiritual attack?

1. Prayer- bring the situation to God and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Ask for help from Christian friends and the chaplaincy. Attend chapel services and listen to Daily Hope.

2. Bible readings appropriate to the situation.

3. Firmly say 'Satan, get behind me.'

4. Access appropriate help for specific problems and difficulties.

Remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39).

Reflection

- Jesus responded to being tempted with words of scripture. Do you have any Bible verses which help you when you are tempted?
- Can you think of a time when you were being tempted. What helped you then? Write down what helped on the back of this sheet and look at it when you need it.
- Do you need help with a specific temptation? If so, please ask chaplaincy or other appropriate people.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

