



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 21 2009

Scripture Story: Mark 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 12, 13.

hard target



Photo by The Crystal Lenz

flashlight

"Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succor us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 117).

keytext

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 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."

(Luke 4:1, 2, NIV)

what do you think?

From the list below, check the top five temptations that

you believe most teens would struggle to overcome.

- Saying something “nasty” to someone
- Buying clothes you don’t need
- Visiting X-rated Web sites on the Internet
- Eating junk food
- Lying to your parents
- Procrastinating on your homework
- Cheating on a test at school
- Stealing your friend’s MP3 player.
- Other _____

did you know?

Luke 4:1 tells us that Jesus was “led” by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. In the original Greek, the language in which these verses were written, the verb “led” doesn’t only mean that Jesus was directed to go into temptation in the wilderness and left there to fight Satan alone. The Holy Spirit was leading Jesus when He was fasting, and the Holy Spirit went into temptation with Him.

INTO THE STORY

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 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 does 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 splendor, 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.’

“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 says: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’

“When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ‘the Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’”

(Luke 4:1-19, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

What parts of this passage are new to you?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?

How did Satan know that the Person fasting in the wilderness was the Messiah?

Besides Jesus and Satan, who else was a part of this desert drama?

How would you describe the tone that Jesus took with Satan in the wilderness?

Do any of the temptations tried on Jesus work on people today? Explain.

Why do you think Satan chose to target Jesus at this time in His life?

Is there anything disturbing to you about Satan's use of Scripture? Share your thoughts.

Underline your favorite verses in this Bible passage.

Why did Satan want to make Jesus prove that he was God?

punch lines

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:8, 9, NIV).

“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness” (Romans 6:13, NIV).

“Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12, NIV).

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done” (Revelation 22:12, NIV).

other eyes

“The virtue of achievement is victory over oneself. Those who know this can never know defeat.”—A. J. Cronin,

20th-century Scottish novelist and dramatist.

“Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations attack the idle.”—Charles H. Spurgeon, 19th-

century English preacher.

“Affliction is the wholesome soil of virtue, where patience, honor, sweet humility, and calm fortitude take root and strongly flourish.”—David Mallet,

18th-century Scottish dramatist and poet.

Sabbath

Look again at the temptations in the *What Do You Think?* section of this week's lesson. How do they compare to the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness? Explain. _____

Think of one of the three temptations that Satan tried to get Jesus to succumb to. Are there any temptations on the *What Do You Think?* list similar to the ones that Jesus faced? _____

Read Genesis 3:1-7. Do you notice any similarities between Adam and Eve's temptation in the garden, the temptations we face, and the ones aimed at Jesus? _____

Sunday

After reading the *Into the Story* section, complete the *Out of the Story* questions. Satan attacked Jesus after 40 days of fasting. Do you think Satan wanted to try to make Jesus fall while He was in a weakened state? Explain your answer. _____

What do you think are some of the benefits of fasting? _____

Jesus met each of Satan's temptations with a clear "It is written." What Bible do you think Jesus was quoting from? _____

Jesus had a deep knowledge of the Old Testament writings of people such as Moses and Isaiah. He knew God's Word and that was why He was so successful in defeating the devil.

Monday

This week's *Key Text* states that Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" when He

entered into the wilderness to be tempted. What do you think it means to be full of the Holy Spirit? _____

Read John 16:13. What role does the Holy Spirit play when we face temptation? _____

The Holy Spirit didn't leave Jesus when He faced a trying time; the Holy Spirit was right there inside of Jesus, keeping all His faculties sharp to fend off Satan's attacks.

Tuesday

Read this week's *Flashlight* quotation again. Now read James 1:13. If God cannot be tempted with sin, and He doesn't tempt humanity with sin, how do we explain the fact that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness?

When Jesus came to pay our penalty for humanity's sin, He had to give up some things. For instance, Jesus never called on His awesome power to get Him out of trouble, not even when He faced Satan himself.

What does the *Flashlight* quotation tell you about how much God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love us?

Wednesday

Take a look at this week's *Punch Lines*. Which one of the verses speaks to you right now?

Did you know that Isaiah wrote his verse about Jesus almost 700 years before Jesus was born? Jesus' victory over the temptations of Satan was predicted centuries before Jesus walked the earth.

Do you think Satan knew of Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus? Explain. _____

Since Satan was unable to overcome Jesus,

to whom has he turned his attention (1 Peter 5:8, 9)? Choose and memorize a *Punch Line* scripture that will help you stand against Satan's temptations.

Thursday

On the lines below, list three practical steps that can help you overcome temptation. _____

Now read James 4:7, 8. What tips can you take from these verses to help you stand for God at all times?

Friday

Is there an area of your life in which you feel powerless to resist Satan? Is there a temptation binding you? Why not pause right now and ask God to help you overcome that temptation. _____

*A special adaptation of *The Desire of Ages* has been created just for you by the White Estate and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net.



At www.insightmagazine.org you can join the Web forum and help shape the future. Discuss the Sabbath School lessons in a virtual community.

Insight has stories of people today from which you can learn practical ideas for reality living.

this week's reading*

The Desire of Ages, chapters 12, 13.

*By following this plan you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.