

Mark 1:12-13 & Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,'

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve."

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Teaching Points:

1. It is not a sin to be tempted.
2. We can overcome temptation by the Word of God.

Questions From The Text:

1. Is it a sin to be tempted? Is it a sin to yield to temptation?

The sin is not in the temptation, but in the yielding.

2. Why was Jesus driven into the wilderness?

To be tempted of the devil, and to show that He would not yield.

3. How can Jesus, being without sin, understand our temptations?

Our High Priest, Jesus can sympathize, for He was tempted as we are (Hebrews 4:15)

4. Who ministered to Jesus when he was in the wilderness?

Angels

Further Discussion:

1. Are there recurring temptations in your life? If so, and if you yield to them, do you try to justify or minimize your actions?

2. Read the Matthew account of Jesus' temptation (4:1-11). How did Jesus deal with the temptations of the devil? Look at each temptation separately, and note how Jesus dealt with each one. Look up the Scripture references in the Old Testament that Jesus quoted.

Memorize:

- Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Mark 4:10)