

Threefold Temptation

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were tempted to sin against God by Satan. They succumbed to temptation, and sin and its consequences entered the world. In like fashion, the Redeemer, Jesus Christ was tempted of Satan. He did not (thankfully) sin, and by his subsequent sinless death on the cross made a way for all mankind to return to the Father. This lesson will attempt to show Satan's purpose and method of attack on mankind. You should compare and contrast the temptations that Adam and Eve faced with those endured by Jesus. Through this effort you will come to understand the adversary we face in the Devil and the need for a Savior for mankind.

Jesus Christ – Human and Divine

John 1:2,3,14 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

Heb 4:15 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- Read of Adam and Eve's temptation – Gen. 3:1-7
- Read of Jesus' temptation – Matt 4:1-11

Satan's Approach

Why did Satan approach Eve through the serpent? Gen 3:1 – Now the serpent was _____ any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

The serpent didn't always look like it does now. The Hebrew word translated in Gen 3:1 as 'serpent' is נָחָשׁ, pronounced 'nachash'. A better translation than 'serpent' is 'shining one' or 'shining enchanter'. Gen 3:14 shows that the serpent wasn't always on its belly. It was upright, maybe even winged. It probably was very beautiful to look at. The creature wasn't scary to Eve. It was not threatening. It was part of the beast of the field which God had given them dominion over. She was not surprised that it _____ her.

What is Lust?

Lust is a focus on pleasing oneself, and often leads to unwholesome actions to fulfill one's desires with no regard to the consequences. Lust is about possession and greed.

Job 31:11, 12 – For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished. It is a devastating fire that destroys to hell. It would wipe out everything I own.

Lust of the Flesh

Defined – The emotions of the soul, what the soul of man wants for the body

EVE	Satan's Attack	Gen 3:1 - And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Although in the form of a question, it was not really an inquiry. Its real significance was that it put in question the goodness of God. The suggestion was that God was unkind in withholding anything from them.
	Satan's Lie	Restriction is unkind.
	Temptation	Gen 3:6 - ... the woman saw that the tree was good for food ...
	Situation	She was surrounded by plenty. Every other tree in the garden was hers. Yet she wanted what she had not been given. Her pride and self-will make that fruit seem more desirable than the others.

JESUS	Satan's Attack	Matt 4:3 – "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." If you're <i>really</i> God's son, why be hungry? God can't be good, placing such a restriction upon even eating. What's wrong with eating?
	Satan's Lie	
	Temptation	Jesus was extremely hungry. His body craved food.
	Situation	He was in the middle of the desert, he had fasted 40 days. He was waiting on the Father to meet his needs.

A simple question is sometimes one of the best tools that can be used to cause doubt or to suggest evil. The question can be asked, "Did you hear about John?" And immediately, human nature being what it is, the person asked thinks, "Aha! What has John done? What kind of scandal is he involved in? What evil has befallen him?" The question is often the forerunner of the doubt.

Pride of Life

Defined – assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things - trusting in things that do not come from the Father but are from the world itself

Psalms 10:4 – The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

EVE	Satan's Attack	Gen 3:4 - Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. Satan's first suggestion was that God's restriction on them was unkind. Now Satan affirms that the restriction is not real. God does not really mean what He says. You won't get in trouble.
	Satan's Lie	Restriction is not real.
	Temptation	Gen 3:6 - ... a tree desirable to make <i>one</i> wise ...as a god
	Situation	She desired to raise her condition, and yet there was none greater than herself on earth except her husband.

JESUS	Satan's Attack	Matt 4:5 - " <i>If</i> You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down." Angels will take care of you. In other words, ignore what you know to be God's will and you won't die. Angels will guard you.
	Satan's Lie	
	Temptation	Matt 4:5-6 - Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, 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 shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "
	Situation	Jesus was despised and rejected of men. He was only known as the carpenter's son from Nazareth.

Where was the truth and the lie in what Satan told Eve (You won't die)?

Lust of the Eye

Defined – Wanting what you see for your own, envious (Matt 20:15)

EVE	Satan's Attack	Gen 3:5 - "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." This was blasphemy against God, as it suggested that the restriction was unjust. Satan was openly contending that the reason why God imposed the restriction on man was that He did not want man to be on equality with Him. It suggested selfishness on God's heart that man was to be kept out of a kingdom which is his inherent right. It meant that harshness and caprice on God's part are not inconceivable, but may sometimes be expected.
	Satan's Lie	Restriction is unjust.
	Temptation	Gen 3:6 - it... was pleasant to the eyes
	Situation	The whole garden was filled with objects of beauty that she could gaze at with lawful pleasure. Eve discarded them all for what God had forbidden.

JESUS	Satan's Attack	Matt 4:8 – ...the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
	Satan's Lie	
	Temptation	Matt 4:9 - And he said to Him, "All these things (the kingdoms and their glory) I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." This suggests that God was keeping Jesus out of His Kingdom, or making him enter it by ways which involved suffering.
	Situation	He had no earthly possessions.

Satan deceives by what he says and what he does not say. Partial truth combined with lie. He implied to Eve that God wasn't somehow good or giving them the best or withholding without unjustly (without cause). He implied that to Jesus with the 3rd temptation. The 1st two temptations seemed to point to the fact the God had abandoned him or that he was not really his son. He seems to take it for granted, that in the former temptations he had in part gained his point, and proved that Christ was not the Son of God, because he had not given him those evidences of it which he demanded; so that here he looks upon him as a mere man. "Come," says he, "it seems that God whose Son thou thinkest thyself to be deserts thee, and starves thee— a sign that he is not thy Father; but if thou wilt be ruled by me, I will provide better for thee than so; own me for thy father, and ask my blessing, and all this will I give thee." Note, Satan makes an easy prey of men, when he can persuade them to think themselves abandoned of God.