

CLASS: SS3
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST
WEEK: 3
TERM: FIRST TERM

CONTENT

1. Meaning of temptation
2. Ways of overcoming temptation
3. Variations in the three Accounts
4. Similarities in the three Accounts
5. Significance Of Jesus Temptation On His Ministry

MEANING OF TEMPTATION

Temptation means to persuade or entice a person to do something wrong or unwise.

SYNOPTIC ACCOUNT OF THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

(Matthew 4:1 – 11, Mark 1:12 – 13, Luke 4:1 – 13)

The account of the temptation of Jesus was recorded by the three synoptic gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They all recorded that after baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days. There he was tempted by the devil. However, Mark did not give detailed account of the temptation. Matthew and Luke were more detailed in their accounts but the sequence of the temptation, as they presented it, differs. However, Matthew's account of the temptation is much more detailed than all the other synoptic gospels; therefore, we shall take the account of Matthew as our narrative framework.

According to Matthew, Jesus was taken by the spirit into the wilderness to fast for forty days and was very hungry. The devil capitalized on the opportunity to know whether Jesus could use His spiritual power to satisfy His material wants. The devil wanted Jesus to change stones to loaves of bread. Jesus answered him by quoting the scriptures "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

When Satan failed in this, he took Jesus to the holy city, set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and commanded Jesus to throw himself down from there that it was written that his angels will take charge of him. Jesus answered and said, "It is written again, Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God."

Again, the devil took him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and told Jesus, All the things of the kingdom will be His if Jesus would bow down and worship him.

Then, Jesus said unto Satan, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shall worship the Lord thy God, and he only shall thou serve.”

Then the devil left him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Variations in the three Accounts

	Matthew 4:1	Mark 1:12 – 13	Luke 4:1 – 13
1	Matthew gave more detailed account than all the accounts.	Mark did not give detailed account of the temptation	Luke gave detailed account
2	Sequence of temptation was: Turning stone into bread, pinnacle, and then mountain.	-----	The sequence of temptation was: Turning stone into bread, mountain, and then mountain.
3	After the temptation, the devil left Him, and Angels came and ministered to Him.	He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of Him.	After the Temptation, the devil left Him for an opportune time.

Similarities in the three Accounts

1. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit where He fasted and prayed.
2. Jesus fasted for forty days, though Matthew added nights.
3. Jesus overcame the temptation.

SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS TEMPTATION ON HIS MINISTRY

1. The temptation confirmed the divinity of Christ.
2. Through the temptation, Jesus accepted suffering as means of achieving God’s purpose which was the redemption of man.
3. With His victory over Satan, Jesus assured His followers that with the word of God they too can overcome the wiles of the devil.
4. The temptation signaled the preparation of Jesus for the ministry.
5. The way Jesus handled the temptation showed that Jesus is not an economic or messiah, or a magician.

6. Jesus overcame the devil with the word of God, proving the efficacy of the word of Word.

Assignment

Narrate the Markan account of Jesus' temptation.