

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK FIVE (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION (RVE)

CLASS: JSS2

TOPIC: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

MEANING OF TEMPTATION

Temptation is the process whereby we are enticed, convinced or persuaded to do what we are not supposed to do. It is the act of persuading or enticing someone to do evil.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS (MATHEW 4:1-11, MARK 1: 12-13, LUKE 4: 1-13)

After the baptism of Jesus, He was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights while He prayed and meditated on His future work as the Messiah and saviour of mankind. At the end of the fasting, the devil came and tempted Him three times.

In the first temptation, the devil said to Jesus "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread", Jesus replied that "it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceed from the mouth of God.

In the second temptation, the devil took Him to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem and said: "if you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, He will give His angels charge over you, and on their hands, they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone". Jesus replied that it is written that "you shall not tempt the Lord your God".

In the third temptation, he took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel down and worship me." "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him.'

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST

The temptation of Jesus, just like His baptism, strengthened Him to prepare for His ministry to preach and save mankind from sin. In the first temptation, Satan wanted to limit the ministry of Jesus to giving only physical bread(food) to the people. Jesus countered the devil by noting that although physical food was necessary, spiritual food, God's word was also essential to sustain life as man is also a spiritual being.

The second temptation was to portray Jesus as a miracle worker performing magical acts to attract people. Jesus refused to be tempted and asserted that one must not tempt God.

The third temptation was to prevent Him from gaining His kingdom through suffering as required of the Messiah. It was also to portray Jesus as a materialistic leader who was interested in earthly wealth and riches. If Jesus had loved political power, He would have bowed down and worshiped the devil but He did not do so.

TEMPTATION IN NIGERIA TODAY AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

Our nation has so many challenges that can lead people into temptation. When people are tempted and fall ,they commit the following sins and crimes:

1. Stealing
2. Bribery and corruption
3. Sexual sins

4. Drug trafficking
5. Oil bunkering
6. Lying
7. Cyber crime
8. Rape
9. Suicide bombing
10. Armed robbery
11. Murder and ritual killings

We can overcome temptation by:

- I. Praying to God for the infilling of the Holy Spirit so we can be empowered to withstand temptation.
- II. Avoiding situations that could lead to temptation
- III. By studying God's word regularly so we can constantly fill our minds with good and pure thoughts.
- IV. Developing strong self-control or self-discipline.
- V. Being contented with what you have and your lot in life.
- VI. Shunning any thought of achieving success through illegal means.
- VII. Having the courage to say no all the time to whatever is unholy or impure.

HOMEWORK

1. What is temptation?
2. State the three temptations of Jesus Christ according to the accounts in the Synoptic gospels.
3. Mention three ways by which we can overcome temptation.