

Repent: Turn to Jesus When You Face Temptations (Mark 14:32-38) 1435

Was Jesus ever tempted?

Hebrews 4:15: *Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!*

Traditionally there are 7 areas of temptation we face every day:

Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy, and Pride

Jesus was tempted in each of these 7 ways – but sinned not.

That's what I want – is that what you want?

You know this: Jesus had been fasting for 40 days – he was hungry.

Satan says: "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Fairly simple – Jesus you're hungry, you're supposed to be God, eat and at the same time show us your power.

Jesus says to Satan: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." ([Matt. 4:4.](#))

Gee – it was only some bread rolls.

No Jesus does not use his divine power for personal or physical satisfaction.

From a high building Satan says "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down: because it is written, He will order his angels to catch you – so that even your feet are not hurt."

What a chance to impress people? What a way to win people for God?

Jesus says: "It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord thy God."

Gee it could be used for good Jesus.

Satan shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this, if you bow down and worship me."

Jesus' answer? "What's the point of gaining the whole world, and then lose your own soul?"

"Go away Satan, it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve."

Satan left – and the angels came and cared for Jesus.

A little closer to Good Friday, the cross is immanent.

Sacrifice is around the corner – Jesus will die instead of us – while we were yet sinners, he died for us - overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death – sweating blood.

He says: "*Father, if it's possible, may this cup of suffering be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will*"

Is that a hint of a temptation?

How would we go?

Paul says:

- the good things I want to do – I don't do.
- The bad things I don't want to do – I do.

But that's Paul – what about you?

The point is Jesus was tempted but did not sin – we are tempted and we do sin.

It's not fair – let's just give in – who cares we are going to fall anyway.

What can Jesus teach us?

Jesus used scripture alone to fight Satan's temptations.

What does that mean for us:

We use Psychology?

- I can beat the devil – he is weak – I am strong.

We can use self-discipline?

- I am strong I just won't eat that bun, that pie.
- I'll just give up smoking?
- I won't watch that movie anymore?
- I won't look at him anymore?

Simple?

Jesus did not use psychology, he did not use self-discipline – he used scripture.

He invites you and me to use scripture in the face of temptation.

Do we know scripture – not your confirmation text – do you know God's word?

When it says Adam knew Eve and she became pregnant.

It doesn't mean he just knew the colour of her hair. He knew every single thing about her – from top to bottom.

Do you know God's word?

Getting back to the 7 deadly sins – it is well documented that one of those sins is by far the worse than the others.

Which one:

Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy, Pride. It's pride.

Luther says: Pride and pleasure is the God of this world.

C S Lewis:

Pride is the father of all sins. Pride is the "anti-God" state, the position in which the ego and the self are directly opposed to God: "Gluttony, anger, greed, drunkenness, and lust, are mere fleabites in comparison to pride.

It was through Pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other evil.

Pride goes before the fall – so it says somewhere.

Pride says you don't need to know the scriptures.

You have a bible don't you? You have Google. You have a bible app – you have no need to “know” the scriptures?

For every temptation pride gives you the answer you want?

If she didn't want me to look at her – why does she dress like that – it's her fault.

Pride tells me I have every right to look.

If he wasn't so stupid with his money he wouldn't be in that situation – it's his fault, he lives in a cardboard box.

Pride tells me I have every right to look down on him.

It's my body, I have every right to fill it up, I have every right to kill the new life growing in me.

My ex-husband was so abusive, I have every right to live with a woman, - it's so much easier.

All the others are flea-bites next to pride.

Pastor David are saying that I just have to know God's word and I'll resist temptation – that's a bit simple isn't it?

Pride says it is!

Jesus says, we must know God's word, it is the only way to combat Temptation.

God's word shows us all the common sense things to do that help.

Mainly keep away – keep aware.

Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on” (Proverbs 4:14–15).

Keep far away from her, and do not go near the door of her house (Proverbs 5:8)

Avoid, keep away!

Pride says, “Pastor Dave this is too simple for me”.

On reaching the place, Jesus said to them, **“Pray that you will not fall into temptation.”**
Luke 22:44

Pride says, “Pastor Dave this is temptation we are talking about – we have to do more than just pray.”

If your right hand causes you to sin, chop it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one part of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

(Have you even wondered why most farmers have a finger or two missing??)

Pride says, "Pastor Dave now your being ridiculous. You mean get rid of all those things which tempt us and throw them away. How silly."

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober" – Pride says, "please don't insult me"

Most scriptural advice is too simple – too obvious – but it means nothing if you don't know it.

"Jesus, satisfy your hunger, show us a miracle in the process, turn stones to bread rolls – ***man doesn't live by bread alone***".

It's too simple Jesus.

Pride says temptation comes to everyone and we cannot overcome it.

God's words says:

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all people. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

You know when we fall, we say, full of pride, as if it's our right, **God will forgive me.**

I just wonder about that?

If we don't walk away, if we don't pray, if we don't use God's word, if we don't know God's word – have we the right to hold out our hand for forgiveness?

If we have tried, if we have walked away, if we have prayed, if we have use God's word and we still sin against God, we are in for the most blessed and confusing gift known to humanity.

In other words when we least deserve forgiveness God speaks: My Grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" ([2 Corinthians 12:8–9, NKJV](#)). T

In your weakness, in your confession, and in your repentance, you will get to know the loving and forgiving grace of God.

In your weakness, in your confession, Jesus on the cross, foolishness to most, will become your best friend.

Lord lead us to humility. To know and use your word against the evil one. To know and use your word to discover forgiveness. Lord we thank you; in the presence of mine enemies: you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Amen