LESSON 5

TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

Reading Portion	:	Matthew 4: 1-11;; Mark 1: 12, 13; Luke 4: 1-13
Memory Verse	:	Eph. 6: 10, 11
Objective	:	To have victory over satanic temptation and lead a successful Christian life.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever experienced temptation to do wrong? We can learn how we can overcome it through Jesus Christ.

Though Jesus was God, he was a natural man on earth. So Jesus was also tempted in all ways as we were. But he didn't sin. We can read the description of temptation in the gospels of Matthew and Luke (Matthew 4: 1-11, Luke 4: 1-18)

The Temptation

1. Holy Spirit lead Jesus into a desert to be tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1) From this passage it is clear that the temptation Jesus faced was not accidental but was of God' plan. Satan didn't go after Jesus to tempt him. But Spirit lead Jesus to encounter the devil and defeat him.

Satan challenged and defeated Adam at the garden of Eden, while the last Adam, Jesus challenged and defeated the devil. Owing to the sin of the first Adam all human beings became sinners, but through the last Adam everyone will be saved.

2. This temptations wasn't the first and last one Jesus faced. Satan was trying to deviate Jesus from his mission. Jesus 'mission' was to die on the cross for the salvation of human kind. So satan always tried to deviate Christs from his mission, the death on the cross. But under all these circumstances, Jesus claimed victory by the help of the Holy Spirit. The very aim of satan's temptations in our lives is to derail our relationship with God. We should also gain victory over such temptations based

on God's word and Holy Spirit.

Explanation of the temptations

As you know, the first temptation was to turn the stones into loaves of bread for Jesus was hungry. Why Jesus could not do some miracle to help him during bodily need as hunger? If he did such things, many would have become his followers, No? Isn't it justifiable to do some sort of miracle, since there was no other means to find food?

No! Man cannot be satisfied with earthly goods. Only the word of God can satisfy our needs. There may be many needs in our lives. But we should not adopt any method that is against God's wish. We should act according to God' word! A perosn cannot live on bread alone but on everyword that God speaks.

As any other Jew, Jesus too had a sentimental attachment to the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was taken to the Holy City and asked to jump down from the highest part of the temple to prove that he was the son of God.

If he jumped and nothing happened, then everyone would have believed that he is God's son. But Jesus was to be revealed to the world, by the tasks given to Jesus by God and how he carried out those tasks (John 5: 36) And the son cannot do anything on his own. He can do only what his father demands (John 5: 19-20). God is a God of miracles. But it is not through wonders, one should trust God, but through his love and grace.

Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms and their glory and promised to give all that to Jesus, if he bows down and worship the devil.

Satan was trying to convince Jesus that he could control all the kingdoms without the suffering on the cross. Why didn't Jesus give in? Jesus came to this world to bruise the head of Satan, and build His kingdom. Cross was the only way open before Jesus for that.

The answer was more authoritative this time. Jesus said to the devil, "Go away, satan! scripture says, 'worship the Lord your God and serve only him'. Then the devil accepted his defeat and left Jesus.

If you compromise in front of such temptation you may get wealth and riches. If you are in such a situation what will you do?

These types of temptations may come in our lives too. It is against the will of God to use our talents and skills for wrong purposes to gain earthly prosperity. If you are in Christ, you have to overcome such temp-

tations using the word of God.

Thank God that he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15: 57)

QUESTIONS

1. Compare the temptations Adam and Jesus faced.
2. What were the temptations Jesus faced? What was Satan's aim in each of these temptations?
3. How did Jesus gain victory over Satan in each case?
4. How is the experience of Jesus related to our lives?
5. Locate the city of Jerusalem, temple etc. in the map.

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