

Oh Tempted Jesus, Save Me When I'm Tempted

(St. Matthew 4:1-11)

Introduction: An armed robber broke the kitchen window...

I. JESUS CHRIST KNOWS ALL ABOUT TEMPTATION

A. In Lent we trace the way Jesus went to buy us back

- (1) At the cross we remember His passive obedience
- (2) His active obedience, was shown when He stood firm against the devil's temptations (*Mt. 12:29*)

B. The devil tempted our Lord in seductive ways

- (1) Jesus was tempted to lose trust in His Father's goodness (*vv. 1-4*)
- (2) He was tempted to make faith a haughty test rather than humble following (*vv. 5-7*)
- (3) Jesus was tempted to compromise a little just to win a sham victory (*vv. 8-10*)
- (4) He was tempted not to trust His Father, not to follow His leading, and to take things into His own hands

C. Christ won victory over the tempter in that wilderness

- (1) He did it by clinging to His Father's goodness, walking His Father's way, seeking His Father's will in everything
- (2) He did it by trust in God's written Word and by the careful use of that Word (*vv. 4,7,10; Eph. 6:17*)

II. JESUS GIVES YOU VICTORY OVER THE TEMPTER EVEN NOW

A. The evil one keeps hurling seductive temptations

- (1) What makes them seductive is that he makes them seem so reasonable
- (2) They're seductive, too, because the world jokes about them (*1 Thess. 3:5; James 1:14-15*)

B. Come to Jesus in these temptations, and you've come to the right place

- (1) Jesus has tied up the strong man (*Mt. 12:29; 1 Cor. 10:13; James 4:7-8*)
- (2) Jesus died to bring pardon for the tests you failed (*Heb. 4:16*)
- (3) Jesus fortifies you as you read and use the Word (*Heb. 2:18; Ps. 34:17-19*)
- (4) Jesus actually makes you more mature through the pain (*James 1:2-3*)

Conclusion: Don't waste this Lenten season. Use it as God's moment to wring victory from the tempter...