

Sermon ~ Sunday, June 5, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit,

Text: Matthew 4: 1-10

Title: "Yield not to The Tempter!"

The noun "temptation," express the desire for something, an urge, uncontrolled impulse, misguided inclination. A lure, enticement, a pull against your push...

The Greek word for "temptation" is peirasmos, (pi-ras-mos'), it has a positive and negative expression. Positive, periasmos is a test. Negative, periasmos is to be tempted to evil.

It expresses, its not a sin to be tempted but *in giving in* to the temptation, that makes it a sin.

Focus with me on *The Tempter* who is a Master at temptations... who turns *life* and *living*, *live* around to *evil*.

From the *high and holy* experience of *blessing* at the Jordan River, **JESUS** is led into the wilderness for periasmos—positive, to be *tested*. [I don't know where today's generation got the thought, 'because I want it': that *JOB*, that *position*, that *title*, that *Pay*, without *proving* they can handle it.] Before a King can rule others, he must *prove* that he can rule himself. Not for **HIS** sake, but ours, **JESUS** proves **HE is KING** of *Kings* (in the first 4 chapters of Matthew's Gospel) ... **JESUS** is periasmos-tested, so that every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might know **HE is KING!**

JESUS meets *the Tempter*... In John 14: 30, **JESUS** says *He is "the prince of this world."*

In the text, **JESUS** not only *overcame* his periasmos-negative-temptations but shows us how we can also.

Nugget. You'll never show how obedient you are if you're never offer the opportunity to disobey!

V. 1, "Then was **JESUS** led up of **The SPIRIT** into the wilderness to be periasmos-tested [by **GOD**] and periasmo-tempted, of the devil."

Note, the adverb, "Then" as it stands in the *forefront* of our text.

"Then" points out "*as to the time when*" Satan will most probably periasmo-tempt you, us.

Remember,

--As long as, Adam and Eve, *were at home with GOD*, the moment *they separated* [one at home with **GOD** and the other went out into the Garden, Then, came 'the serpent.' While JESUS was on the shore of the Jordan River, being baptized, and praying, the heaven opened,

And The HOLY GHOST descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, which said, THOU art MY beloved SON; in thee I AM well-pleased." (Luke 3: 21-22) Then, JESUS being full of The HOLY GHOST returned from Jordan and was led by The SPIRIT met the Devil in the wilderness." (Luke 4: 1)

When Adam had everything, he needed, Then came the serpent (before he and Eve was asked, 'don't you wanted it?')

When **JESUS** was hungry after 40 days and nights of fasting, Then came the Devil.

After Adam lost the battle with the serpent and plunged all humanity into sin and death, Then the serpent has been coming ever since. But **JESUS** won the battle in the wilderness and went on to *defeat* Satan in more battles and declared, "*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto ME.*" (John 12: 31, 32)

How did **HE** do it?

1. **JESUS Loved GOD and The Will of GOD!**

Do you love **GOD**? For **GOD** will *periasmos-test* you: Deuteronomy 8: 1, 2

“ALL The commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which I The **LORD** swore unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which The **LORD thy GOD** led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep **HIS** commandments, or not.”

JESUS said, in John 14: 15, 16, “If ye love **ME**, keep **MY** commandments. And I will pray **The FATHER**, and he shall give you another **COMFORTER**, that **HE** may abide with you for ever.”

Do you love **GOD**?

And **GOD** will permit the Devil to *periasmos-tempt* you! You say, (Matthew 4: 3-4)

YOU are **GOD’S SON** [you say, you are **GOD’S** child], while since **YOU** are **HIS** beloved **SON** [**GOD’S** child], ‘Why doesn’t your **FATHER** feed you? Why does **HE** put you into this terrible wilderness?’

(All alone, out here by yourself, as bad as it is, you are out here hungry)

Then, he makes this suggestion, “Use **YOUR Divine powers** to meet **YOUR** own needs!”

[Use what you got. You don’t need to do *this* and *that*. They know what you are going through, after all **GOD** knows, and *I know*, they’re not all that...]

Nugget. When you put your *physical need* ahead of your *spiritual need*, you *sin*.

Nugget. When you allow *circumstances* to dictate your *actions*, instead of following **GOD’S WORD, Will and Way**, you *sin*.

Nugget. When you leave **GOD** out. Satan will move in.

JESUS answer the Devil, “it is written,” and quotes, Deuteronomy 8: 3, “And **HE** humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did they fathers know; that HE might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of **The Mouth of The LORD** doth man live.”

*Feeding on and obeying **GOD’S WORD** is more important than consuming physical food.*

How did **HE** do it?

2. **JESUS Trust ALL of GOD’S WORD, not Parts.** (Matthew 4: 5-7)

So, said the Devil, “You intend to live by **The SCRIPTURES**, Uh?” [Satan took **JESUS—The Son of man**, to the pinnacle of the **Temple**, about 500 feet above the ground.]

Let me quote you a verse of **SCRIPTURE** and see if **YOU** will *obey* it? **Then**, he quoted *from* Psalms 91: 11-12, “If **THOU** be **The Son of GOD**, cast **THYSELF** down: for it is written, HE shall give HIS angels charge concerning THEE.....: and in *their* hands they shall bear THEE up, lest at any time **THOU** dash **THY** foot against a stone.”

‘If **YOU** really believe **The SCRIPTURES**, then jump! Let’s see if **YOUR FATHER** cares for **YOU!**”

Carefully note **JESUS** reply, "It is written again..."

Point: Never leave one part of **SCRIPTURE** from another. **SCRIPTURE supports SCRIPTURE!**

Psalms 91: 11-12, says "For **HE** shall give **HIS** angels charges over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."
[The Devil cleverly omitted "in all thy ways," knowing that, when **GOD'S Will is our Will** and *our Will is GOD'S Will*, **GOD is obligated** to keep **HIS WORD!** **GOD** keeps **HIS promises** when we keep **HIS Ways!** [Example, 'Man, the Bible said, "Ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15: 7)

NO! John 15: 7 says, "If ye abide in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

Nugget. Beware, of taking **GOD'S** promises out of context, or claiming promises when we don't meet the conditions.

JESUS trust **GOD'S WORD** from Deuteronomy 6: 16, "Ye shall not periasmos-tempt **The LORD your GOD...**"

WE *tempt* **GOD** when we put ourselves in circumstances that force **GOD** to work a *miracle* on our behave. [A *diabetic* and won't take your *insulin*. A *Hypertension* patient refuses to take their *Blood pressure medicine* arguing, "**JESUS** will take care of me."

That's periasmos, to *tempt* **GOD** to go against **HIS WORD!**

How did HE do it?

3. JESUS Knew HIStory was already Written. Have Faith in HIStory and Glory awaits HIM (us)! (Matthew 4: 8-10)

The Devil offered **JESUS** an "*easy way*" to become **KING**. The Devil always show us "*shortcuts*" to do **GOD'S Will!** He is a *Master* at "*counterfeits*." [bogus, copies, fictitious, fraudulent, phony, ways]

Oh, as "**the prince of this world**" the Devil can offer us "castles in the sky." Mansions in the swamp lands of Mississippi. Ten billion dollars if you buy Lotto Tickets. "All these things will I give you [not I will give you], if THOU wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4: 9)

Nugget. **JESUS** knew this, "*whatever we worship is the 'god' or we will serve!*" *Worship* and *service* goes together!

JESUS said, "It is written" ... I have Faith in **HIStory**" ... Deuteronomy 6: 13, "Thou shalt fear **The LORD THY GOD**, and serve **HIM** and swear by **HIS NAME** [and Presence.]"