

Tempted as We Are (Part 1)
The Use of Power and Abilities for Self-Gratification
 Luke 4:1-4

Sin is destructive. "All unrighteousness is sin" (1 John 5:17). Other translations read: "Every wrong action is sin" (Twentieth Century NT). "Every act of wrongdoing is sin" (Phillips). "All iniquity is sin" (Moffatt's). The word translated "unrighteousness," or "wrong action," or "wrongdoing" or "iniquity" is the Greek word *adikia*. The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words defines this word as "any act that causes harm to oneself or others in violation of a divine standard" (Lawrence Richards, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 1985).

The standard of God for the Messiah was twofold: (1). To live His life without sin, and (2). To pay for the sins of others. That was the divine standard for Jesus. He gladly accepted. To fail would be sin for Him. Jesus was tempted as we are. "For we have high priest who can sympathize with us, for He has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin..." (Hebrews 4:15). Imagine! Tempted, yet without sin.

1. **The Lord Jesus was tempted when** *"he was full of the Holy Spirit"* (v. 1). Temptation, conflict, turmoil of mind and emotions, are not signs of poor character; on the contrary, Spirit-filled people are targets.
2. **Jesus was tempted 'immediately' after His baptism.** Temptations often come after the best blessings. "So it often is with us; after experiencing some sealing testimonies of his love, we fall into temptations; just as the disciples of Christ did after the supper, who, when tempted, all forsook him and fled" -- Gill

I. Christ was tempted to doubt the reality of His identity and purpose.

The first temptation begins at the end of verse two, chapter four: *"And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry."* We see His full humanity. "The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'" If... could mean 'Since' or "Are you?" Either way, this temptation strikes at the heart of who Jesus is or what Jesus was sent to do for us.

- (A). **Since** He is the Son of God, He does not need to go hungry... He deserves to turn rocks to bread.
- (B). **If** there is doubt about who He is, then the turning of rocks to bread would prove His divinity.

II. Christ was tempted use His power and abilities for self-gratification.

Could Jesus have turned stones into bread? Sure. He will one day make wine out of water. He can turn stones into bread. Jesus is hungry, so it seems absolutely natural to do what Satan suggests.

(A). Satan is leading Jesus to this action. Ask yourself the question, "To whom am I listening?"

(B). Satan is using a natural, physical desire in his temptation. Many of your temptations from your enemy will revolve around bodily appetites and pleasures that are not necessarily evil.

(C). Satan is tempting Jesus to use His power for self-gratification. Satan will attack you at the very place that is most natural, most logical, most comfortable --- without thinking of others. Listen: *"No one should seek their own good, but the good of others"* (1 Corinthians 10:24). That's huge. The last Adam came to redeem us from the fall of the first Adam. He came with us on His mind.

III. Christ defeated the temptation presented by knowing and applying God's Word.

"Man shall not live on bread alone" (v. 4). This is a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3. When Israel was in need of bread, God gave manna; but what Israel needed more bread was to follow God's Word.

(A). Jesus would not turn the stone into bread because it was not his Father's will.

(B). Jesus would not turn to the stones to bread because he was living as my Substitute.

You and I are not able to turn stones to bread, and Jesus lived like we live, tempted like we are.

(C). Finally, Jesus refused to turn the stones to bread because Jesus had no interest in Satan's plans.