



The Temptation of Practical Goodness

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

**He ate nothing during those days,
and at the end of them he was hungry.
The devil said to him,**

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“If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘People do not live on bread alone.’”

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The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him,

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“I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

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**If you worship me, it will all be yours.”
Jesus answered, “It is written:
‘Worship the Lord your God and
serve him only.’”**

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The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said,

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**“throw yourself down from here.
For it is written: ‘He will command
his angels concerning you to guard
you carefully;**

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they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered,

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“It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Luke 4:1-13



← “In Adam”



“In Adam”

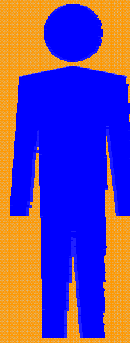


“IN CHRIST”

DISCIPLESHIP



IN ADAM

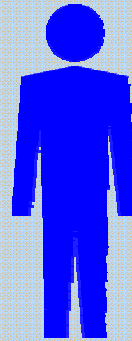


IN CHRIST



TEMPTATION

IN ADAM



IN CHRIST

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

- 1. Will Jesus be a Lord who uses supernatural power to bring immediate relief to himself and others?**

The Temptation of Immediate Humanitarian Power

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

2. Will Jesus be a Lord who rules the world the “ordinary” political way?

Temptation of Political Power

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

- 3. Will Jesus be a Lord who uses supernatural power to make his identity obvious to people?**

Temptation of Religious Power

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

Jesus' Temptation

**To put practical goodness before
[what may look like] irrational
faithfulness to God.**

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

We define “good” and “evil” and, on this basis, act “practically” to further your self interest.



The Temptation of Practical Goodness

Evil, be thou my good.

– Satan, in *Paradise Lost* by John Milton



The Temptation of Practical Goodness

Our Temptation

Put practical goodness before [what may look like] irrational faithfulness to God.

A gravel road with a yellow center line leads towards a bridge in the distance. The road is flanked by trees and vegetation. The sky is overcast.

The Temptation of Practical Goodness

**Will you resist the temptation to put
“obvious” practical goodness before
[what way look like] irrational
faithfulness to God?**