



for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

Bible Study:



This lesson gives an account of a time Jesus spent 40 days of **prayer and fasting** in the wilderness soon after His baptism (Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12,13; Luke 4:1-13). After His 40 days of solitude with the Holy Spirit and God the Father, Jesus was tempted by Satan. Read the account of the story in Matthew 4:1-11. Next read the sources of Jesus' responses to the first two temptations in the Old Testament:

Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His physical hunger (for the wrong reason). Jesus answered:

'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

(See Deuteronomy 8 and Exodus 16)

Satan tempted Jesus to test God (a sign of NOT trusting). Jesus responded:

"The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

(See Deuteronomy 6:16 and Exodus 17)

Though physically weak from hunger, Jesus was spiritually strong by maintaining His first priority of submission and fellowship with the Father. In the story, Jesus refers back to another wilderness experience – that is, the time the Israelites were in the wilderness after having been redeemed out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus' obedience stands in stark contrast to the testing and rebellion of the people of Israel when they were tempted.

The gospel in the story:



The third temptation has everything to do with Jesus' love for us; Satan offered Jesus a "short-cut" to being King. However, Jesus knew that He came for a purpose: to lead the perfect life none of us could live, and die the death that we deserve. Hebrews 12 tells us that for the Joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross for our sake, THEN sat down at the right hand of God. Jesus took the narrow road to kingship thereby earning the titles prophesied hundreds of years earlier by Isaiah: For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Application:

Discuss how Jesus' responses to Satan's tempting serve to teach us how to have victory over temptation in our lives.

Read Isaiah 11:2, and discuss the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' success.