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## Sunday School Lesson

REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D. D.,  
Author of English Bible in the Moody  
Institute of Chicago.  
Sept. 1922, Western Newspaper Union.

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 22

JESUS TEMPTED

SON TEXT—Luke 4:1-13.  
GOSPEL TEXT—For in that He Him-  
self suffered being tempted, He is  
able to succor them that are tempted.

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Phil. 2:5-11;  
1:14-18; 4:14-18.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus Overcomes  
Temptation.

FOR TOPIC—Jesus Tempted to De-  
ceive.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—  
Temptation.

FOR PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—  
Christ's Victory Means to Us.

The Place of (v. 1).  
The wilderness of Judea. The first  
Adam, was tempted in a garden  
the most pleasant surroundings.  
The second man, Jesus Christ, was  
tempted in a barren wilderness sur-  
rounded by wild beasts (Mark 1:13).  
The Purpose of (v. 1). He was  
tempted into a wilderness by the Spirit.  
The temptation was Messianic.  
He was "tempted in all points  
where we are," we are not tempted  
as He was in this instance, but the  
methods are employed on us.  
The eighteen years of retire-  
ment Satan surely tempted Christ as  
he tempts us. Satan, no doubt, would  
gladly have escaped this hour, but the  
Redeemer had come for the Redeemer to  
rest upon His mediatorial work;  
He went from the place of  
and heavenly recognition as  
the Son of God to meet and despoil  
the arch enemy (Heb. 2:4).

It was not a preparation for His  
work, but rather its first conflict. In  
Hebrew we have the symbolic act of  
redemption of himself to the work of  
redemption through the cross—the  
making full a righteousness. In the  
temptation, the strong man is spoiling  
the enemy.

It was not to see if Christ would  
fast—would fall under the most  
severe test. Christ could not fail.  
To postulate would make God's  
scheme of redemption to have been  
undone until after this temptation,  
and would have made God guilty of  
bringing forth a scheme of redemption  
on the basis of a possible overthrow.

It was to show Christ as an ob-  
ject upon which we may rest our faith  
with unshaken confidence. He came  
as the Second Man, the head of a new  
body, the source and life. It was  
to show the divine and human natures  
of the Redeemer.

III. Satan's Temptations (vv. 2-12).  
Christ as the world's Redeemer  
assumed a threefold relation—Son of  
the Father, Son of God; and Messiah, there-  
fore Satan made each one a ground of  
attack.

1. As Son of Man (vv. 2-4). Satan  
made his first assault upon Him as  
a man by appealing to the instinct of  
hunger. Satan urged Him to use His  
divine power and convert a stone in-  
to bread. Hunger is natural and sin-  
less. The temptation was in satisfy-  
ing a right hunger in a wrong way.  
To have yielded in this case would  
have been to renounce the human lim-  
itations which He had taken for our  
sakes. To use divine power to satisfy  
human needs would have been to fail  
as Saviour and Redeemer.

2. As Messiah (vv. 5-8). Here the  
temptation was to grasp His right-  
ful dominion by false means. The  
devil offered to surrender unto Him  
the world if He would worship him.  
The force of this temptation was in  
the fact that the kingdoms of the  
world are Christ's by God's covenant  
with Him. God's method by which  
Jesus was to possess the world was  
the cross. The temptation Satan is  
pressing upon the church today is to  
get possession of the world by other  
means than the cross.

3. As Son of God (vv. 9-12). Here  
Satan tries to induce Christ to pre-  
sume upon God's care. He quotes a  
Messianic Psalm to induce Him to so  
act. To do the spectacular thing in  
order to get notice is to fall into Sat-  
an's temptation. For Jesus to have  
placed himself in danger in order to  
get God's special help in delivering  
Him would have been to sin. To put  
one's self in moral and spiritual peril  
in order to test God's faithfulness is  
to sin. Satan is never quite so dan-  
gerous as when he quotes Scripture.

IV. Christ's Defense (vv. 4, 8, 12).  
It was the Word of God. He met  
and repulsed the enemy with "It is  
written." Our defense is God's Word.  
May every Sunday school teacher  
know how to use it!

V. The Issue (v. 13).  
Satan is vanquished. If we will but  
trust God and use His Word we too  
can overcome.

Superior and Inferior.  
You may fall to shine in the opinion  
of others, both in your conversation  
and actions, from being superior, as  
well as inferior to them.—Greville.

Faith.  
New faith is the substance of things  
to be hoped for, the evidence of things  
that appear not.—Hebrews 2:1.

The Lord's Day.  
Ye shall keep my Sabbaths and re-  
verence my sanctuary; I am the Lord.—  
Leviticus 19:30.

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