

GOLDEN TEXT

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matt. 3: 17.

DAILY READINGS

M.—Matt. 3: 13-17. The baptism.
T.—Matt. 4: 1-11. The temptation.
W.—Mark 1: 1-13. The Father's testimony.
Th.—John 1: 29-34. The Son of God.
F.—James 1: 12-26. Enduring temptation.
S.—Phil. 2: 5-11. Highly exalted.
S.—Heb. 2: 10-18. Able to help.

TIME

About January, A.D. 27. John had been preaching about six months. Jesus was about thirty years old. (Luke 3: 23.)

PLACE

In some more remote part of the desert where John was preaching.

CATECHISM

Q. 4. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

LESSON HYMNS

70: 90 (Ps.); 246; 536; 74.

LESSON PLAN

I. Obedience and Recognition, S: 13-17.

Submitting to the baptism of the sinful, as already making Himself one with sinful men; and recognized by God as His own beloved Son.

II. Temptation and Triumph, 4: 1-11.

Thrice tempted of the devil, when in sore straits through His long fast, and thrice victorious; in the end ministered unto by angels.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—13-15 Where did Jesus and John meet? For what purpose had Jesus come? What did John say? How did he know that it was Jesus? (John 1: 33.) Why did Jesus wish to be baptized? How did Jesus feel? (See Num. 4: 3; Ex. 20: 4.)

16-17 How was Christ occupied? (Luke 3: 21.) What did He see? What did He hear? On what two other occasions were heavenly voices heard? (Mark 9: 7; John 12: 28.)

Ch. 4: 1-10 Where was Jesus now led? By whom? For what purpose? In what condition was He? Give Old Testament parallels. (Ex. 34: 28; 1 Kings 19: 8.) What was the first temptation? How did Christ meet it? (Deut. 8: 3.) What was the second temptation? How met? (Deut. 6: 16.) What passage quoted by Satan? (Ps. 91: 11.) What was the third temptation? How resisted? (Deut. 6: 13.)

11 Who now came to Christ? Give a similar Old Testament instance. (1 King 19: 5.) In what ways does Satan tempt us? How may we escape? What should our prayer be? (Matt. 6: 13.)

Seniors—13-15 Why did Jesus wish to be baptized of John? Where was it done? (John 1: 28.) What is baptism? (Shorter Catechism, Q. 94.)

16, 17 Where else do we read of the heavens being opened? (Ezek. 1: 1; John 1: 51; Acts 7: 56.) Of what was the dove a symbol? Give other Bible emblems for the Holy Spirit. Where is Christ called God's Son? (Ps. 2: 7; Matt. 17: 5.) How can we gain approval from God?

1, 2 Why was Christ tempted? (Heb. 2: 18; Heb. 4: 15.) What were the three temptations of Christ?

3-11 What made the proposition in the first so tempting? Wherein was the wrong of it? What means of victory employed? What inducement in the second? Wherein the wrong? How met? What

is the Christian's armory of defence? What allurements and what sin in the third? To what do these temptations correspond? (Gen. 3: 1-6; 1 John 2: 16.) What was Christ's consolation after victory?

Bible Side Lights—WELL PLEASED—Mark 12: 6; Heb. 13: 16, 21; Phil. 2: 13.

TO BE TEMPTED—James 1: 12, 13; Heb. 4: 15; 1 Cor. 10: 13.

BREAD ALONE—Deut. 8: 2, 3; 1 Pet. 2: 2; 1 Cor. 3: 2.

ANGELS' CHARGE—Ps. 91: 11, 12; Matt. 18: 10; Ps. 34: 7.

DEVIL LEAVETH—Jas. 4: 7; Eph. 6: 11; 1 Pet. 5: 9.

Practical Points—1. When we know what God's will is, we should willingly and humbly obey it.

2. How gentle is the dove! How strong is the Holy Spirit! When the Spirit, dove-like, nestles in our hearts, we shall be both gentle and strong.

3. Temptation often follows moments of spiritual uplift. Many a worshipper goes from God's house with sweet and elevating thoughts, to be assailed by thoughts that are selfish and worldly and vile. When you have been most blessed, then most beware.

4. Christ's first temptation was through the appetite, perhaps because temptation more often comes through our poor bodies than through any other way.

5. Our deepest needs are not physical, but moral and spiritual; and they can be met only by trusting and obeying God.

6. It is tempting God to break His laws, whether natural or spiritual, and then expect Him to keep us from the consequences of our rashness.

7. Satan makes great promises, but he is not good at keeping them. We can never meet him as Christ did by the use of the Word of God.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why is temptation allowed to come?

2. How is temptation best met?

3. When may we expect the angels? (v. 11)