

failure. God cannot be tempted; but man can be. Christ was God-man. On the human side the temptation was not only possible, but actual. The battle in the wilderness was not a spectacular display. Christ conquered Satan in his humanity, and for humanity. But the mystery of it, like the mystery of the Trinity—three persons in one nature—and the Incarnation—two natures in one person—shall be solved only when the entire mystery of the God-man is revealed.—*Rev. Henry Spellmeyer, D.D.*

He was tempted as a man, just as he was hungry and weary and died as a man. Like every other man, he was influenced by motives, was attracted by objects which from a human standpoint appeared desirable. He wished food to satisfy the cravings of hunger. He wanted to succeed in his appointed mission. Hence he was affected by the plausible presentation of methods to secure these. But, while these motives for doing wrong to obtain proper ends solicited and attracted his human nature, they did not win in the slightest degree the consent of his will.—*Professor Charles F. Bradley.*

Lesson Word-Pictures.

A great victory is to be gained by Messiah, this Prince of God, this Lion of Judah, this Conqueror of the world.

Where will he go to gain it, and over what enemy? What forces will he marshal for the great fight? Shall he, in his heavy war-chariot, thundering out of Jerusalem's proud gates, a mighty host of Israelites around him, go against the Roman oppressor? Not thus! O, how small is his visible array of strength! No army is marshaled heading for Rome. Just one—the solitary Jesus—goes into the wide, lonely wilderness. There he will meet an enemy mightier than Rome or any world-power. There he will show that he is the strong Son of God.

But when will he meet this enemy? He wanders day after day. He hears the sweet call of the birds in the air as if voices to win him back to the world. No, he cannot, will not, go. Night comes. His shelter is a cave or a cleft in a rock. He hears the savage threat roared by some wild creature as if to frighten him away from the battle-ground. He cannot be frightened. He must stay.

What is this mysterious enemy coming one day? When will it come? How will it come? Will a murderous onset be made by a rushing horde, with spears set or swords drawn? And when? At dawn, at noon, at set of sun?

There is no answer. There is only this mysterious, protracted waiting. Day succeeds day, and all are lonely. Night follows night, and none are friendly.

Forty days have gone.

O, how weak and faint is the body! How sharp are the cravings of hunger! If the stone before the Saviour could become a loaf of bread, how acceptable it would be! Suddenly an ugly voice, more dreadful than the roar of furious armies, utters the temptation to distrust God and make the stone bread. That assault of temptation goes by harmless.

When will this dreaded enemy come again?

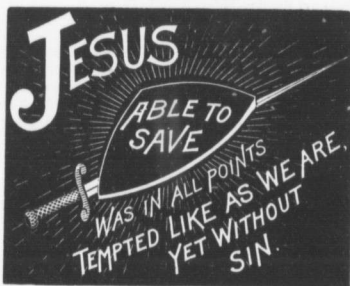
Suddenly before the Saviour is a vision of the world. Under him is the lonely mountain-top; over him the wide and solitary sky. Far below are all the kingdoms of the world spread out in one bright, impressive, fascinating, tempting picture. Fields and forests; cities and hamlets; navies and armies; palaces and marts of business; crowded granaries and coveted treasures!

And then comes the hissing voice of temptation proffering all this for prostration at the devil's feet! How surmised is the solicitation!

Once more the enemy comes. There is a looking down from a temple-pinnacle into the shuddering depths below. O, how dizzy that altitude! How far down that descent! And now that insidious voice hissing again its temptation, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from thence!" No, no! It cannot be! God must not be tempted.

And now we seem to catch a flapping of hideous wings. There is the lifting of shadows, as if a storm-cloud had passed. What peace, serenity, sunshine, triumph! And lo! the angels of God have come to minister unto him who has met and vanquished the greatest of enemies, and shown himself the greatest of conquerors.

Blackboard.



The lesson having been reviewed from the stand, the superintendent can use the blackboard for the purpose of making the application. Are you tempted and tried? Jesus knows all about it. Is the way rough and hard to climb? Jesus has walked the same way before me. Am I helpless and almost hopeless? Jesus is able to save. Why? Because "he was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Open your heart to him; keep nothing back; neither be ashamed to tell him all your troubles, for "he careth for you." The Bible tells us to cast all our care on him, not a part, but all, for he is a sun and a shield, and the sword of the Spirit will pierce the evil one that tempts the believer.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLORS. The shield and sword of light blue; the rays bright yellow; the words on the shield in red or pink; the words in the rays all to be white.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Jesus the Strong One.*

Print in large letters, "Temptation." Find out how much children understand of its meaning. Tell some simple story to illustrate it. Print "Deliverance," also in large letters. Over the first print "Satan;" "Jesus" over the last.

Make picture of an open Bible. Then tell the lesson story very simply.

Satan, the bad spirit—the very same that tries to get us to do wrong, did not want Jesus to help men to be good. So he came to tempt Jesus. First, he tried to get him to be selfish, to look out for himself as if his Father had forgotten him. Read from the Bible what Jesus answered, and explain that it is better to obey

god and obey.

Satan is wrong at next time before God him, if of how strong and urge to tempt to tempt!

Show a tower, and Teach that us when we may t our own blackboard.

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