

## International S. S. Lessons.

12 Aug.

### The Temptation of Jesus.

Les. Matt. 4:1-11.  
Mem. vs. 1-4.

Gol. Text, Heb 4:15.  
Catechism Q. 88.

A strange thing had taken place at the Jordan. Jesus stepped up out of the edge of the stream where he had been standing with John, when John dipped up the water and poured it upon him in baptism. An appearance as of a dove lighted upon Him. A voice was heard. "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

The great work that was before Jesus came home to Him with new power. He saw rejection and disappointment and death.

He slipped quietly out of the crowd, travelled five or six miles west to the lonely hills that rise just above Jericho, and there, alone, not in the woods, for there was no forest, but among the lonely desolate hills, called wilderness, he thought over the great work on which He was entering, and there He was tempted.

How would He be tempted? We read in Hebrews iv, 15, that He was in all points tempted like as we are." How are we tempted? Thoughts come into our minds, put there by the evil one. So with Jesus.

It would be in this way. When He went to that lonely place, thinking of the work before Him, the suffering and death, the thought would come into His mind, The Jews are expecting a king to deliver them from their enemies. If I were to work a few miracles in their favor, lead them to victory, they would rally around me and make me king, or, perhaps the thought would come in this way: Why not give up this work and go back Home? Why should I suffer and die for those who will hate and reject me?

So strongly did these thoughts come into His mind that for forty days He was there thinking it over, these thoughts forcing themselves into His mind, and He was so agitated about it that He forgot His bodily needs, and for forty days did not eat nor hunger.

But he would not yield, and the devil finding he could not prevail, ceased putting such thoughts into Christ's mind. Then came peace and rest, and then came a feeling of His bodily needs, He was hungry.

Then the devil thought he would try another plan. So this thought came into Christ's mind, "I am the Son of God, I have all power, Why should I hunger? I will turn these stones into bread, and eat the bread." But then came the thought, "It is not God's will. He led me here, and He will provide for me in His own way." and Christ would not do that.

It might seem to us that there would be no sin in turning the stones into bread, but He saw that it would be wrong for Him, and He would not do it.

Then He came out of the lonely hills, got food at some village, and travelled up to Jerusalem, some twenty miles. When He got there, He still wanted to be alone. He went to the temple, His Father's house. To get by Himself, He went up some stairway that led to the roof, and there He looked down into the court-yard with its throng of worshippers.

Then the thought came to His mind, put there by the devil, "I am the Son of God. It is written of me, 'He shall give His angels charge to keep thee, in their hands they shall bear thee up, &c. If I jump down I will not be hurt, the Jews will receive me as their king sent from heaven, and all will be so easy."

Then came the thought "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. I would be tempting Providence to do that." So Satan failed.

Coming down from the temple roof, still wishing to be alone, Jesus took a walk out into the country, perhaps to Mizpah, a mountain top some six miles distant, and there, as He sat looking around over the country, He could see all the kingdom of Judah, which was all the world to a Jew, and which it would be like the Eastern way of speaking, to call "all the kingdoms of the world." The thought came to Him, "If I would only be such a king as the Jews want, all this that I see would be mine." But then came the thought "that would be serving Satan and worshipping him rather than God" "Get thee behind me Satan."

Satan found that there was no use putting bad thoughts into the mind of Christ, and he left Him for a time.

1. When bad thoughts come into your mind, it is Satan that puts them there. When bad thoughts come to your minds do you resist them or yield to them.

2. Christ knew the Scriptures and when tempted, verses came to mind to help Him. Learn much of the Bible.

19 Aug.

### First Disciples of Jesus.

Les. John 1:35-49.  
Mem. vs. 40-42

Gol. Text, John 1:41  
Catechism Q. 89.

After the temptation Jesus went back to the Jordan. John was still in the neighborhood, on the East side of the river, and the people were still coming to hear his preaching; and to be baptized.

The priests and rulers at Jerusalem had heard of John's preaching, and sent some men to ask him if he were the Messiah. No said John, but there is one standing among the people here who is the Great One. There