

# SUNDAY SERMON

By Rev. D. T. Caldwell.

## THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:18.

The first event we have recorded in our Lord's history after His baptism is His temptation by the devil. We see Him passing from a season of joy and gladness immediately to a season of conflict and suffering. The glorious testimony of the Father, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," has scarcely ceased ringing in His ears when the evil devil offering sneering suggestion, "If thou be the Son of God, etc." The devil had been standing by as an onlooker at the baptism of Jesus and had heard all of the things that were said and done. So he was not the one to sit idly by and give a friend come to humanity without making some effort to stop the blessing. He had overcome the first Adam in the Garden of Eden, and why should he not overcome the second Adam in the wilderness? He had spoiled man out of Paradise, and why should he not spoil him of the kingdom of God. Thus we have the temptation of Christ brought before us. It is something that is deep and mysterious. There is much in the history of it that we cannot explain, but there are some things and truths for us to learn from it that are very practical.

The description that we have in the three gospels is a vivid picture of a great historic fact. The temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ was not taken unawares for He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Mary said, "And immediately the spirit drove him into the wilderness." The wilderness where the Master was tempted was in Judea. During the forty days of His temptation, He was without food and drink. Mark adds, "He was with the wild beasts." Mark gives four orders of beings that were with the Lord during His stay in the wilderness. There were wild beasts, angels, Satan and the Spirit of God. There is a striking comparison between the temptation of Christ and that of our first parents. Both the first Adam and the second Adam—Christ—had an end to the temptation. Adam was so was Christ. That was a part of His life here on earth. Then too Christ had more to do than did Adam. There was no sin at all in the world when Adam was undergoing the temptation but when Christ was in the wilderness the world was burdened with sin. So He had to dispose of sin and then gain eternal life whereas all Adam had to do was to gain life. There was no sin in the soul of Christ and so Satan was given power over him for the time. Christ was not to be humiliated here on earth and by his temptation we see a part of it being done. We are humiliated because we have sin in our hearts and when we approach God we feel that we are unworthy. We are humiliated because we have sin in our hearts and when we approach God we feel that we are unworthy. We are humiliated because we have sin in our hearts and when we approach God we feel that we are unworthy.

How Was Temptation Possible For Christ?  
We are told that God cannot be tempted and that He does not tempt any man. We are told moreover that Jesus Christ was without sin and yet he was tempted in all points like as we are. Then too we are told that Jesus Christ is very God Himself. He is the second Person of the Trinity that took on human flesh and lived here on earth. How then can we think of Christ as having been tempted in all points like as we are? Was it just a farce that we were told that God cannot be tempted? So it looks like we must have the possibility of Jesus sinning to have a real temptation, but we cannot have a Saviour that could sin. How then do we explain the temptation of Christ? Was it just a farce that He went through with and it was counted for a temptation? We must first recognize this great truth. With us the temptations which Satan brings before us have their power in simply soliciting sins that lie sleeping in our hearts but with Christ he had to solicit sin from a normally sinless nature. So then Satan had to bring something before Christ which did not contain anything wrong in itself, but which would be a supposed help to Him in His work as Messiah for the human race. Consequently Satan spoke of things that pertained to the future life and work of Christ here on earth and also of His kingdom in the future world. Satan then took points connected with the Messiahship and not with the individual life of Christ. In this way then Christ could undergo temptations which were just as real as any that we may have. These temptations would tear and pull at his soul more than any we ever have. Satan knew better than we to try Christ on the things that he tried us on for the Lord would not pay any attention to him.

Here then is the secret of the thought about Christ's temptation. Christ was tempted in all points like us and Satan knew that, but here at the start He must be humiliated. This was the weak point that Satan thought Christ would have. He tried then to get Christ to pass over this stage of humiliation and gain the glorious end at once. But here is the point of the temptation. If Jesus had done this then he would have been acting as Messiah for Satan instead of God Himself. Satan thus wanted Christ to become the Sovereign Messiah for Him. Jesus was to be His Messiah and he would receive the kingdom from Satan instead of from God Himself. Satan would have him escape being just a human man and winning His way into the hearts of men, but just with one stroke He would gain the whole world so then the light of the world proposed work as Saviour of the world and established a kingdom Jesus could be tempted. He then truly was tempted in all points like as we are but yet in a higher degree than we can ever appreciate here on earth. We know that He was tempted in all points like us and so it must have been an awful tug at his heart strings to have the kingdom presented to Him without having to undergo suffering here on earth, and without waiting for the slow action of human beings in carrying His message to the world. Yes. He could be really tempted.

The Nature of the Temptation of Christ.  
Jesus was to obey and Satan endeavored to keep Him from doing so. If Satan could get Christ to sin here at the very beginning of His work on earth then he would not have the lone fight to wage; Satan was striking at the very heart of the kingdom of God by striving to get the King to sin. If he had succeeded there he would have been no better than His subjects and could have done nothing for them. This truth is shown by all the monarchs on earth today. They try to show that they are better than their subjects either in power or in intellect. The strong in character ought to rule. Jesus

knew he must win the battle then or never. Satan was on the fundamentals as we always find. Where there is something good going on there you will find him busy and hard at work. The stages of this temptation of the Christ are three:  
1. The writer well says that after Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights that he was hungry. Immediately the devil appealed to Him on this point. "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Then at once we have the answer of Christ and he answers with the word of God. "But he answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'" The answer of Jesus is not brought from a chance quotation which he just happened to remember. There is a connection with the verse and the situation Christ was in. Moses wrote the words quoted and they are found in Deut. 8:3. In that verse Moses is showing the Israelites that their experience in the wilderness was for the purpose of humbling them. He refers to their thinking they could live on the manna alone which God gave to them. So then the two cases are very much alike. The children of Israel were on probation or trial and so was Christ. It was a trial of their faith in both cases and also it was by material hunger. It was not that they were hungry. They were also to remember that these are only the ones that are mentioned at the end of his period of fasting. There may have been many more for all we know. But anyway these three are enough to appeal to the body, soul and spirit of the Lord Jesus. By these temptations Jesus is able to sympathize with us and to know how we feel when we are tempted. He had been tried as it were by fire and knew that it would burn. He shows us this great lesson that we must win by struggling against the devil with all the power of God in Heaven possesses. That was what he did to resist the onslaught of Satan. We are told that slaves used to be tracked and run down by blood hounds and that no blood hounds ever tracked its victim as the spirit of evil tracks the footsteps of its slaves. The tempter is always before us. Let us remember that the best of Christians are always the targets of the devil. He tempts them as he would tempt none other. Jesus was about to enter upon a great work and to be sure Satan wanted to stop the work. He does the same with many of God's people today. Let us remember also that temptations bring souls into need. People who are tempted need aid and support. That is just what Christ said that he would do for those that are tempted. He is able and ready to help all of us who will go to him. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, and ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

Satan is making his assaults upon us today. He never leaves nor forsakes us. Our best friends may leave us, our father may let us go but the devil ever remains. That is the great reason why we should always have with us this one who is able to succor us when we are tempted because he has been tempted in all points like as we are and yet without sin. The Master won in the battle with the devil. There is a remarkable little statement in Matt. 4:11. "Then the devil leaveth him, and behold angels came and ministered unto him." Yes the angels came to Jesus and so will he send them to us. If Satan tempt our hearts to stray and whisper evil things within. So did he, in the desert way. Assault our Lord with thoughts of sin. When worn and in a feeble hour the tempter came with all his power. "For in that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted."

2. The next strike the devil made was of a slightly different nature. "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on the pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, 'If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, he shall give his angels charge concerning thee; and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.'" The devil found that Jesus was going to oppose him with Scripture and so he in turn quotes Scripture also. The devil always quotes Scripture. But Jesus said unto him, "It is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Jesus hears the devil saying to oppose him reference and he says "again it is written." The devil quotes Psalm 91:11-12. Jesus refers to Deut. 6:16, Ex. 17, where the children of Israel wanted war and Moses smote the rock. It was not so much water that they wanted because they feared that God could not bring them into Canaan and so they were calling for a sign. Thus they were experimenting with God. Moses tells them they are not to tempt the Lord their God. The case of Jesus would be just like that referred to. He would be tempting God by asking that he bear him up. It would be very good to have a faith that was strong enough to cause one to lean on God that much, but when there was no need for it God would not be likely to bear anyone up that would do it just to tempt him. The devil would have Jesus appeal to the multitude below by casting himself off the high pinnacle thus to prove to them that he was the Christ at once without a struggle. It was presumption pure and simple that God would be tested.

3. The third temptation was different from the other two. The first was a trial of faith amidst privation. The second was that of protection of life amidst danger. Both referred to the faith of Jesus. But in the third temptation we have, (1) A suggestion of an open act of sin, (2) Satan introduces an element of selfishness in the transaction, (3) Satan suggests that the obedience and worship of himself would be only for the moment. "And again the devil taketh him up into an exceedingly high mountain, and sheweth

him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, 'All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.'" It was in this temptation that Satan forgot himself entirely and suggested something that would not appeal to Jesus as much as the other two did. If Jesus had worshipped Satan, it would not have been just for the second, but for all time to come. He thought that Jesus would forget himself and thus be drawn into the net. Satan was eager to catch the Master. (a) The thing that Satan proposed was not sinful in itself, for all the kingdoms of the world were one day material kingdoms that Satan offered. It was the spiritual kingdoms that he possesses in this world. Thus it was a real offer.  
(b) Then too Satan was depending on the momentariness of the vision to sweep Christ off of his feet. He would do away with the long hard road. It was then a trial of the patience of Christ.  
(c) In this critical hour Satan is under the control of that great principle which always governed him, namely, substituting himself for God. At once Jesus sees the motive of Satan. If he had done what he was told to do then he would have been the Messiah of Satan. The answer of Christ rings clear though. "Get thee behind me Satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." The reference is to Moses warning Israel against idolatry. Deut. 6:13. They are told not to go after other gods and this would have been the case with Jesus if he had done what the devil asked him to do. The answers of the Master are clear and to the point.  
**Because of His Temptations Jesus Is Able to Succor Us.**  
All the phases of the several temptations are recorded in the Bible. We are also to remember that these are only the ones that are mentioned at the end of his period of fasting. There may have been many more for all we know. But anyway these three are enough to appeal to the body, soul and spirit of the Lord Jesus. By these temptations Jesus is able to sympathize with us and to know how we feel when we are tempted. He had been tried as it were by fire and knew that it would burn. He shows us this great lesson that we must win by struggling against the devil with all the power of God in Heaven possesses. That was what he did to resist the onslaught of Satan. We are told that slaves used to be tracked and run down by blood hounds and that no blood hounds ever tracked its victim as the spirit of evil tracks the footsteps of its slaves. The tempter is always before us. Let us remember that the best of Christians are always the targets of the devil. He tempts them as he would tempt none other. Jesus was about to enter upon a great work and to be sure Satan wanted to stop the work. He does the same with many of God's people today. Let us remember also that temptations bring souls into need. People who are tempted need aid and support. That is just what Christ said that he would do for those that are tempted. He is able and ready to help all of us who will go to him. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, and ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

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The Organized Reserve corps is now a recognized organization and will have a number of regular army officers assigned to each unit, and the units have been assigned the designations as far as practicable of our World War units that made such wonderful records in France.  
The officers who served in the late war may be commissioned in the reserve during the war. Ex-officers are therefore urged to apply for such commissions without delay, in order to be assured of early preference for they may be appointed upon their records without further examination. Their moral and material assistance in building up the organized reserves is a very important factor in the state of efficiency and preparedness of the United States Army.  
It is the policy of the war department that each officer of the reserves be assigned to units, within the division area in which he resides. To assign officers outside the area of their unit special authority must be obtained from headquarters. In some cases where an excess of officers reside in a unit and it may be necessary to attach them temporarily, this may be done by the organization commander, as in the case of assignments. In the event that a full complement of officers have not been assigned to a particular organization, it will be understood that the requisite quota is not available, and it is hoped that enough ex-officers of the World War, or others eligible for appointment, may be induced to apply for their commissions, those who reside in the organization area and thus be assigned to it to make up the quota. It is by the promotion of ex-officers that the higher grades should be filled, leaving the lower grades to be filled by graduates of the R. O. T. C. and C. M. T. C. training institutions.  
It is especially urged that each officer assigned to an organization, irrespective of rank, ask such eligibles as they may know personally or by reputation, to apply for their commissions, as ex-officers of the World War should not lose touch and trace of each other but should retain their organization. If all ex-officers of the late war held reserve commissions they could on occasion be of material assistance to one another, politically, socially, and in a business way.  
The benefit of the nation would be assured for the present, and for the future, as it is expected that military cadets of the R. O. T. C. and C. M. T. C. training corps will follow your example and apply for commissions in the officers reserve corps thus creating a force sufficient to protect our shores.  
No reserve officer will be called to active duty for training without his


# ORGANIZED RESERVE CORPS U. S. ARMY

By A. H. Young, 355th Engineers.

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The war department is engaged in forming and establishing definite policies during any calendar year and upon whom such duty, for business or other good reasons, would work a hardship, will upon his own request be exempted from such tour of duty.  
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Communicate with the local office of the U. S. Army at the customhouse, where information on this subject will gladly be given. Ask for Major C. A. Marsh or A. H. Young.  
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Bathing Shoes \$1.00 at Peterson & Ruifs.—Adv.  
The next war is to be fought in the air. That will enable most of the European states to witness it at close hand.—New York Tribune.  
The Turks are playing in hard luck. The army hasn't been paid for months, and there are few American tourists there to capture.—Baltimore Sun.  
If the Chinese bandits had only thought of letting movie people in on this show they wouldn't have asked for ransoms.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.  
That Turkish concession to American must be all right. The public hasn't been offered stock in the wells.—Lincoln Star.  
Chemical experts in Washington say that Chinese "chop suey" houses are so well decapitated.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.  
For reparations we should demand that Chinese "chop suey" houses be forced to put handles on the tea cups.—Wall Street Journal.  
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