

## 49 The Temptations of Jesus and the Beatitudes

### **Background**

When God calls a person to serve Him in an area that person is first tested. Satan gladly does this in the hope the person will sin in a way to disqualify them for that service. God allows it to show Satan the person is worthy of the service and ready for it.

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So, it was with Jesus.

Having been anointed by God at His baptism for the ministry He was to do, Jesus then went into the wilderness for Satan to tempt Him. Satan did not immediately tempt Jesus but waited until Jesus was hungry and weak.

Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan. He then went throughout the countryside demonstrating that He was a representative of The Kingdom of God by doing the work of The Kingdom: casting out demons, healing the sick, teaching about The Kingdom, calling people to train for the purposes of The Kingdom then training them.

He called 12 people to be His students to learn about The Kingdom, demonstrate it and teach others about it. So any minister who says they follow Jesus will also be doing these things or they will not demonstrate the Kingdom of God and may not even belong to it.

Having demonstrated His Authority to represent The Kingdom Jesus then started to teach His followers about it. This He first did in the Sermon on The mount. In this sermon He taught the attitudes necessary for a citizen of The Kingdom of God to have.

### **The actual temptations**

These three temptations of Jesus by Satan demonstrate three very important attitudes a citizen of The Kingdom of God should have and the fact that the truths of The Kingdom will keep you safe from falling into the traps Satan sets for you. He answered the first two temptations with Scripture but there was none to cover the idolatrous request of Satan (The Beatitudes) then taught then about their relationships to others and God.

In Summary, the three temptations were to do with:

Doubting God's provision (His Love)

Doubting God's protection (God's Control over all things including Satan\_

Worshipping someone or something else apart from God (idolatry)

These are three basic attitudes a Citizen of The Kingdom of God needs if they are to be a faithful citizen. The worship of God is important as we will obey Him because we believe He is God. So, if you really believe Jesus is God you will obey all He taught.

Clarke in His commentary made the following observations

*In the course of th-is trial, it appears that our blessed Lord was tempted,*

*1st. To Distrust. Command these stones to become bread.*

*2dly. To Presumption. Cast thyself down.*

*3dly. To worldly Ambition. All these will I give.*

*4thly. To Idolatry. Fall down and worship me, or do me homage. There is probably not a temptation of Satan, but is reducible to one or other of these four articles.*

*From the whole we may learn:*

*First. No man, howsoever holy, is exempted from temptation: for God manifested to the flesh was tempted by the devil.*

*Secondly. That the best way to foil the adversary, is by the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [Eph 6:17](#).*

*Thirdly. That to be tempted even to the greatest abominations (while a person resists) is not sin: for Christ was tempted to worship the Devil.*

*Fourthly. That there is no temptation which is from its own nature, or favoring circumstances, irresistible. God has promised to bruise even Satan under our feet.*

*As I wish to speak what I think most necessary on every subject, when I first meet it, and once for all, I would observe -*

*First, That the fear of being tempted may become a most dangerous snare.*

*Secondly, That when God permits a temptation or trial to come he will give grace to bear or overcome it.*

*Thirdly, That our spiritual interests shall be always advanced, in proportion to our trials and faithful resistance.*

*Fourthly, That a more than ordinary measure of Divine consolation shall be the consequence of every victory.*

### **The principle of the temptations in greater detail**

The first temptation is for you to take matters into your own hands rather than wait for God to provide what you need or show you where to obtain what He desires you to use for Him.

The second temptation is to do with testing God by doing something that is a bad stewardship of your body or of what He gives you to be steward of. If you really believe God Loves you, you will not need to test His Love of you.

The third temptation is not to do idolatrous activity by worshipping someone other than God or given the credit for something that God does to another being. Whenever you disobey God, you are committing idolatry. Anything placed before God and His Will is an idol.

### **The Beatitudes**

Jesus starts off by describing the attitudes of a person who is a Citizen of The Kingdom of God.

These are the attitudes behind what Jesus talks about in the rest of the sermon on the mount and with the Lord's Prayer cover all the attitudes a Christian should have.

*Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Mat 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

*Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Mat 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

*Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

*Mat 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

*Mat 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

*Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

These were common sayings amongst the Jews and here Jesus combines them into one passage and relates these to the attitudes of those who live successfully as a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

These people worship God and trust in His control over all circumstances so that they trust God for their provision and protection and gladly serve Him in all He asks them to do. They believe God is Love and that All He allows to happen to them is for their best.

In this passage the word 'blessed' refers to those God has blest who are happy because of God's favour towards them regardless of what God allows to happen to them.

They are blest because God has taken a personal interest in them because they are important to Him.

These who are 'poor in spirit' are not spiritually poor but have an attitude that holds the things of The Kingdom in high regard and do not chase or hold onto the physical things of this world because they value the things of The Kingdom more than the things of Satan. They are a good steward of what God has given to them in this world but do not control these but use them as God directs them too. Their spirit poorly looks on (has a low regard) to the things of the earth.

Happy are those who can mourn over things that are important:

The lost

The abuse to God and His Kingdom

Their evilness in certain areas

That Jesus is not exalted in this world.

The Father is not treated as a loving parent.

They will be comforted.

Note it is future tense so will happen in the future when the things on earth Change and Jesus rules in the Millennium and the earth is as it should be. Going to heaven comforts them but leaves these things unchanged until Jesus returns.

The meek person does not assert their rights as they know they have none except what Jesus gives to them. They express God's Love to all and the nature of love is service so they serve those that need their help and do not seek to gain anything from this service: wealth, authority, men's praise, anything that brings them glory. They know all they do is because God helps them do it and give Him all the glory for whatever happens to prosper people and The Kingdom.

Their meekness is a result of knowing their correct relationship with God.

We need to pursue righteousness - our correct relationship with God as a citizen of His Kingdom and as one whom He Loves. We need to pursue it as if our life depended on it (which it does in eternity) and as if we would lose what we have if we did not continue to pursue our intimacy with God.

Mercy is an expression of God's Love so merciful people are carrying out the attitude of God to these people, the same attitude He had toward them which is why they have this personal relationship with Him. They want others to have it so show them God's quality of Love to them when it is not deserved by them.

These people have a heart untainted by the attitudes of the world system around them controlled by Satan so they do not dwell on the things of the world but on the things of God expressing God's attitude of Love to all they meet. They have a conscience void of offence to all, just like God has to them.

These people desire all to be at peace with God so tell others about what God has done for them and help them develop their relationship with God. They try to reconcile because Jesus came to earth to reconcile and He is our example.

In all things they rejoice because God's attitude about these things is in them and God rejoices over these things.

The happily suffer for The Kingdom and its purposes because they have the same attitude to others as Jesus did who suffered for them. They have the same attitudes as Jesus and know because of this they will be with Him in heaven so rejoice in this fact regardless of what happens to them, knowing that the sufferings of this present world are a short time compared to the eternity of blessedness they will have with Jesus in heaven.