How the Devil Tempted Jesus
Luke 4:1-12

Introduction:
A. The Devil is real — neither myth nor abstraction.
   1. Has personality — “himself” (2 Cor. 11:14).
   2. Conversed with Jesus (vv. 4, 6, 9, 13).
B. The Devil tried to take advantage three important areas of life.

Discussion:
I. Natural Appetite.
   A. Satan appealed to the hunger of Jesus — a legitimate bodily function (vv. 3,4).
      1. God gave things needed to maintain life on earth: hunger, thirst, reproduction.
      2. God gave moral laws to check and direct these — sets us apart from animals. (2 Pet. 2:12-14)
   B. Jesus answered, “It is written, man shall not live by bread alone...” (v. 4).
      1. To live by bread alone is to satisfy hunger by any means. (cf. 2 Thess. 3:8-12; Eph 4:28).
      2. To live by word is to please God in satisfying their needs (cf. Heb 13:4; 1 Cor 7:5-11; Matt. 5:28)

II. Human Pride.
   A. Satan offered “glory” and “power” — what prestige! (v. 6).
      1. Souls sold for “honor,” “glory,” “power,” and “prestige” — want to impress men.
      2. Sin marketed under false labeling: “Distinction,” “sophistication,” and “culture.”
      3. Sin excused because we think too much to expect one to forgo such benefits.
   B. Jesus answers, “It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, ...”
      1. Must not worship or deify anything (Phil. 3:19; Matt. 6:24).
      2. Must not worship or deify anyone.

III. Religious Faith.
   A. Satan tried to use the Bible to get an advantage (vv. 9-11).
      1. He would have us emphasize one passage to exclusion of another.
         b. Eph. 2:8,9 to exclusion of Jas. 2:24).
         c. 1 Pet. 5:3 to exclusion of 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17).
      2. He will use great Bible principles to promote his agenda.
         a. Promotes unforgiveness in the name of purity (cf. 2 Cor. 2:5-11)
         b. Promotes contentiousness in the name of “contending for the faith.” (cf. 1 Cor. 13:4).
         c. Promotes compromise in the name unity (cf. Gal. 2:5).
         d. Promotes doctrinal softness in the name of love.
         e. Promotes lowered standards in the name of growth.
   B. Jesus answers, “It is written again ...” (Matt 4:7) — put things into focus and balance.

Conclusion:
A. If you are tempted to remain in sin — It is written how to escape.
B. If you are a Christian — It is written how to live and resist the devil.