



THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

AFTER HIS BAPTISM, THE HOLY SPIRIT LET JESUS INTO THE WILDERNESS TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL. JESUS FASTED FOR FORTY DAYS; HE NEITHER ATE NOR DRANK BUT PRAYED TO FATHER CONTINUOUSLY AND PREPARED HIMSELF FOR HIS COMING MISSION.

AT THE END OF THE FORTY DAYS, WHEN JESUS WAS VERY HUNGRY, THE DEVIL APPROACHED HIM AND BEGAN TO TEMPT HIM. AS THE DEVIL KNEW THAT JESUS WAS VERY HUNGRY, HE BEGAN BY SAYING: "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, TELL THESE STONES TO TURN INTO BREAD." OF COURSE JESUS COULD HAVE DONE THAT MIRACLE, BUT HE WAS NOT DECEIVED BY THE DEVIL AND ANSWERED: "IT IS WRITTEN THAT MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD."

THE DEVIL WAS DEFEATED BUT DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE. INSTEAD, HE CONTINUED TO TEMPT JESUS. THIS TIME, THE DEVIL TOOK HIM TO THE TOP OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AND SAID THAT IF JESUS IS THE TRUE SON OF GOD, LET HIM THROW HIMSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN THAT GOD'S ANGELS WILL BEAR HIM IN THEIR HANDS AND WILL NOT LET EVEN HIS FOOT TOUCH THE STONE. THIS TIME, JESUS REPLIED: "IT IS WRITTEN THAT YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD."

ALTHOUGH THE DEVIL WAS DEFEATED AGAIN BY JESUS, HE DECIDED TO TEMPT HIM YET AGAIN. FOR THIS THIRD TIME, HE LED JESUS TO A HIGH MOUNTAIN AND SHOWING HIM THE WORLD'S KINGDOMS, HE PROMISED ALL THAT TO JESUS IF JESUS WOULD WORSHIP HIM.

JESUS ANSWERED THIS LAST TEMPTATION THUS: "GET BEHIND ME, SATAN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN: YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SHALL SERVE ONLY HIM."

AFTER HIS THIRD DEFEAT, THE DEVIL DID NOT DARE TO CONTINUE TEMPTING JESUS AND LEFT. AFTER THE DEVIL'S DEPARTURE, THE ANGELS OF HEAVEN DESCENDED AND BEGAN TO SERVE JESUS.

WITH THIS GLORIOUS VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL, JESUS DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO DEFEAT THE EVIL BY HAVING A STEADFAST FAITH AND LOVE AND BY PRAYING CONTINUOUSLY TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, AS JESUS DID IN THE WILDERNESS.

WE SHOULD ALSO STUDY THE BIBLE BECAUSE JESUS HIMSELF ANSWERED AND DEFEATED THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATIONS BY QUOTING FROM THE BIBLE.

QUESTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- 1) WHY DID JESUS GO TO THE WILDERNESS?**
- 2) WHAT DID JESUS DO FOR FORTY DAYS?**
- 3) WHEN DID THE DEVIL BEGIN TO TEMPT JESUS?**
- 4) WHAT DID THE DEVIL TRY TO DO THE FIRST TIME TO TEMPT JESUS?**
- 5) WHAT WAS JESUS' SECOND TEMPTATION?**
- 6) WHAT DID JESUS SAY IN ANSWER TO THE THIRD TEMPTATION?**
- 7) HOW CAN WE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL TEMPTATIONS?**
- 8) EXAMINE AND LEARN BY HEART JESUS' ANSWERS TO THE THREE TEMPTATIONS.**

LEARN BY HEART

**O MERCIFUL GOD, CARING FOR ALL YOUR CREATURES
PROTECT, WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, MY SOUL AND BODY
FROM THE ALLUREMENT OF SINS, FROM THE TEMPTATION OF THE DEVIL, FROM UNFAIR PEOPLE
AND FROM ALL DANGERS TO THE BODY AND THE SOUL.**

HAVE MERCY ON YOUR CREATURES AND ESPECIALLY ON ME, A GREAT SINNER.