



Sermon
Kxf. Dr. Numlaajtsheb Yaaj

“Thaum Raug Kev Simsiab”

First Sunday in Lent
Our Savior Lutheran Church
3-5-17

Thov txoj koobhmoov txojkev hlub thiab txojkev haumxeb pub rau nej sawvdaws los ntawm Vajtswv uas yog peb Leejtxiv uas yog peb tus Cawmseej Tswv Yexus Khetos. Asmees.

Matthew 4:1 “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil - ” (Cross reference – Malakaus 1:12-13, Lukas 4:1, Henplais 4:15, Yakanpau 1:14)

Illustration “Temptation” (Show picture of apple and snake)



“What is temptation? Seduction to evil, solicitation to wrong. It stands distinguished from trial thus: trial tests, seeks to discover the man's moral qualities or character; but temptation persuades to evil, deludes, that it may ruin. The one means to undeceive, the other to deceive. The one aims at the man's good, making him conscious of his true moral self; but the other at his evil, leading him more or less

unconsciously into sin...” (Fairbain, quoted in The Words and Works of Jesus Christ, J.D. Pentecost, p. 99.)

- I. All of us have face temptation. In this world, we may wish that we could get to a place in our lives where we could completely escape them, but we cannot. We will be tempted by our friends, our co worker, our neighbors, and others. On the spiritual side, we will be tempted to not obey God’s Commandment, miss use His name, not worshipping Him and on the physical side, (Show season of Lent)

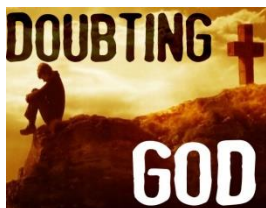
The Season of Lent



we will be tempt with honesty, integrity, respect, and the devil, the world, and our sinful nature will tempt us to do the things that are wrong. As we begin our Lenten services, our text for tonight tells us about Jesus’ facing temptation from the devil and how Jesus overcome it and that we might learn so we can overcome the temptation when we face it in our

lives. In our text Satan tempted Jesus in three different times. Satan tempted Jesus to see if Jesus is trusting his heavenly Father’s care. Remember that when the devil tempted Jesus, he had not eaten for over a month. When Satan challenges Jesus to turn stones into bread, he was trying to get him to doubt that God could sustain him. In a sense, Satan was saying, “You haven’t eaten for over a month, you can’t survive like that. God’s can’t help you. You better stop trusting God and make some food for yourself.”

We also experience similar temptations in life. While Jesus did not fall victim to the taunts of the devil, we often do. (Show doubting God)

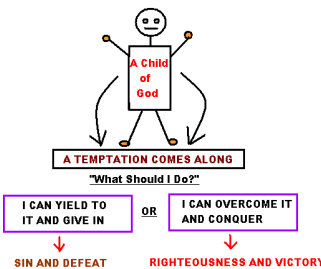


We find ourselves doubting that God will take care of us and provide for us. Gas price increase, unemployment everywhere, Sickness and death all around us and

we're tempting that God doesn't care anymore. Most people think that if an accident happen or something happen to their love one, than he will say, "Why did God let that happen?" You

see, when thing like this happen, Satan basically saying to you. "You can't trust God. You better forget about him and start to rely on yourself." When people committed sin, people like to blame God, "Why did God let that happen?" But, St. Paul first letter to the Corinthians said, *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

II. The devil knows just how to trip us up. (Show temptation come along)

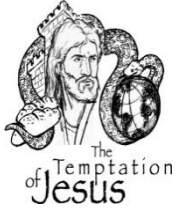


He knows our weaknesses. For some of us it is eating something we know we shouldn't, for others it is looking at something or doing something that we know is not healthy for us. When you face the temptation of the world, how do you deal with it? When you try to deal with yourselves, you will not be able to overcome it. For some things are easy for us to turn away from and say, 'No!' But other things keep

our heads turning back and keep our eyes distracted. But when you turn to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ you will overcome the temptation just as he had overcome the devil temptation.

(Show temptation of Jesus)

How did Jesus overcome Satan temptation at the dessert?



He was tempted three times as we read and each time, he overcame it. *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread. (Matthew 4:3-4) "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."* (Mat.4:5-7)

How did Jesus response to the two temptations? Jesus recognize the temptation and He response with God's Word. *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.* (Show dog staring at food)



A pastor once told his congregation, "I learned a great lesson from a dog." He said, "His master used to put a bit of meat or a biscuit or some kind of food on the ground, and he'd say to the dog, 'Don't eat that,' and the dog would run over and eat it, so he'd hit the dog. And he put another piece of meat on the ground. He'd say, 'Don't eat that.' The dog would go over and

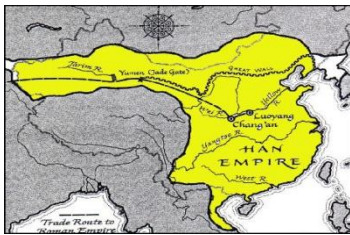
eat it, and he hit him again. Well, after awhile, the dog got the message: eat meat, get hit. So the dog decided he wouldn't eat the meat." But the man telling the story related how that the dog never looked at the meat. The dog evidently felt that if he looked at the meat, the temptation to disobey would be too great, and so he looked steadfastly into his master's face and never took his eyes off him, and thus the temptation never caused a problem.

III. How did Jesus overcome with his third temptation? *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' (Matthew 4:8-11) Jesus recognize Satan temptation, He response with God word, He than tell Satan *"Away from me, Satan!"* (Show Jesus telling Satan to go away)*



When you look at Jesus temptation, you can imitate Him of overcoming the temptation in your life. If you are tempted to committed sin, you will recognize, what the sin is, response with God's word, and removed yourself from the sin. There is a legend that Augustine, accosted on the street by a former mistress shortly after his conversion, turned and walked in the

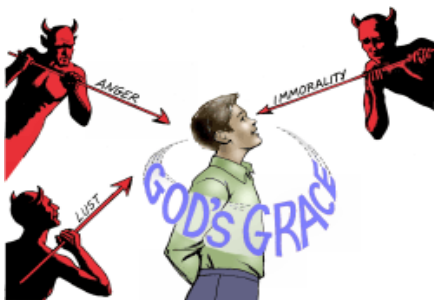
opposite direction. Surprised, the woman cried out, "Augustine, it is I." But Augustine, proceeding on his way, cried back to her, "Yes, but it is not I." What he meant was that there was a new Augustine, and that this new Augustine would avoid the very territory and appearance of evil. As King Solomon said, *"He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray."* (Proverb 10:17) (Show Han Empire)



In China's later Han era, there lived a politician called Yang Zhen, a man known for his upright character. After Yang Zhen was made a provincial governor, one of his earlier patrons, Wang Mi, paid him an unexpected visit. As they talked over old times, Wang Mi brought out a large gold cup and presented it to Yang Zhen. Yang Zhen refused to accept it, but Wang Mi persisted, saying, "There's no one here tonight but you and me, so no one will know." "You say that no one will know," Yang Zhen replied, "but that is not true. Heaven will know, and you and I will know too." Wang

Mi was ashamed, and backed down. Subsequently Yang Zhen's integrity won increasing recognition, and he rose to a high post in the central government. Human nature is weak, and we tend to yield to temptation when we think nobody can see us. In fact, if there was no police force, many people would not hesitate to steal. This is not to say that when we do something bad, we feel no compunction at all, just that man is weak and prone to yield to temptation. But even if nobody witnesses our sins, and not a soul knows of them, we cannot hide the truth from the eyes of our conscience. In the end, what is important is not that other people know, but that we ourselves know. When Yang Zhen told Wang Mi that "Heaven will know," he meant that the gods would know what he had done: in other words, his own conscience. (Konosuke Matsushita, founder of Panasonic in his book *Velvet Glove, Iron Fist* (PHP Institute, Tokyo), *Bits & Pieces*, June 25, 1992).

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, when temptations do creep into our lives, even at our strongest periods of faith, we know we have our Savior, Jesus, who can provide us with the strength we need to emerge victorious from any battle we might have with Satan. (Show God's Grace)



We are reminded of the words of Hebrews 4:15-16, which say, *"We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* His triumph over the devil becomes our triumph today because of the cross. Christ's death on the cross, even more than his resistance to temptation in the wilderness, strips Satan of the power of his tricky, tempting ways. Because of

the cross, we have the confidence of knowing that the power of Jesus is within us to face temptation and we will come out as winners. There is no longer a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness when it comes to dealing with temptation, because the death of Christ has done away with its hold on us. Because of Christ, it becomes easier and easier for us to turn away from temptation and move on. So move on and move away from the wiles of Satan, and be energized in your ability to live a life that has already triumph over the devil. Amen.

Thov kom Vajtswv txojlus pub rau peb sawvdaws totaub thiab tau nyob kajsiaab lug rau ntawm Tswv Yexus Khetos lub npe. Peb txhuatus uas yog Vajtswv cov menyuam peb sawvdaws hais. Asmees