

Tempted for Our Good

Handout #2

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness, to be tempted of the devil.” (Matt. 4:1; KJV)

*all (page numbers) are from Manton’s *Works*, volume 1

I. Introduction

1. The parties: the person tempted—*Jesus*; the person tempting—*the devil*
2. The occasion: *Jesus was led up of the Spirit*
3. The time: *then*
4. The place: *the wilderness*
5. **Main doctrine:** The Lord Jesus Christ was pleased to submit himself to an extraordinary combat with the tempter, for our good.

II. The Circumstances of this Extraordinary Combat

1. The persons combating (Gen. 3:15)

Jesus	Devil
Seed of the woman	Seed of the serpent
Prince of peace	Prince of darkness
Michael	Dragon
Captain of salvation	Grand enemy
Prince of life and righteousness	Architect of wickedness
Restorer and repairer of creation	Ruiner of creation

2. The manner of the combat

Q. Was it real?

3. What moved him?

“Led by the Spirit”—“the impulsion and excitation of the Spirit, the Spirit of God” (259)

“He did not voluntarily put himself upon temptation, but by God’s appointment, went up from Jordan farther into the desert.” (259)

Lessons:

[1] “Temptations come not by chance, not out of the earth, nor merely from the devil; but God ordereth them for his own glory and our good.” (259)

*Citing Job 1:12, Luke 22:31, Matt. 8:31

"Till God exposeth us to trials, the devil cannot trouble us, nor touch us." (259)

"If we be free, let us bless God for it, and pray that he would not 'lead us into temptation': if tempted, when we are in Satan's hands, remember Satan is in God's hand." (259)

[2] "Having given up ourselves to God, we are no longer to be at our own dispose and direction, but must submit ourselves to be led, guided, and ordered by God in all things." (259)

"Now there is a perfect likeness between a Christian and Christ: he is led by the Spirit off and on, so we must be guided by the same Spirit in all our actions: Rom. viii. 14, 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'" (259)

[3] "That we must observe our warrant and calling in all we resolve upon." (259)

[4] "There may be liberty of man's will, yet the victorious efficacy of grace united together: a man may be taught and drawn, as Christ here was led, and driven by the Spirit into the wilderness."

*Comparing Matt. 4:1 with Mark 1:12

4. The time

4.1. After his baptism

"Christ's baptism had the same general nature with ours, not the same special nature: the general nature is an engagement to God, the special use of baptism is to be a seal of the new covenant . . . his baptism was an engagement to the same military work to which we are engaged." (260)

*Citing 1 John 3:8

4.2. At baptism

Mark 3:16–17—"Thus many times the children of God, after solemn assurances of his love, are exposed to great temptations." (260)

4.3. Before entering prophetic office

"Experience of temptations fits for the ministry, as Christ's temptations prepared him to set a-foot the kingdom of God, for the recovery of poor souls out of their bondage into the liberty of the children of God." (261)

"Our state of innocency was our health, the grace of the Redeemer our medicine, Christ our physician; for the devil had poisoned our human nature. Therefore, when he sets a-foot his healing cure, it was fit and congruous that he should experimentally feel the power of the tempter, and in what manner he doth assault and endanger souls: Christ also would show us that ministers should not only be men of science, but of experience." (261)

Lessons:

[1] "That Christ alone grappled with Satan . . . that we may know the strength of our Redeemer." (261)

[2] "That the devil often abuseth our solitude." (261)

"It is good sometimes to be alone . . . Howsoever a state of retirement from human converse, if it be not necessary, exposeth us to temptations; but if we are cast upon it, we must expect God's presence and help." (261)

[3] "That no place is privileged from temptations, unless we leave our hearts behind us." (261)

"When we are locked in our closets, we cannot shut out the Devil." (261)

III. The Reasons Why Christ Submitted to It

1. With respect to Adam

Parallel between Adam and Christ (Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15)

"In the same way we were destroyed by the first Adam, in the same way we were restored by the second. Christ recovereth and winneth that which Adam lost. Our happiness was lost by the first Adam . . . so it must be recovered by the second Adam." (261)

2. In regard of Satan

". . . by his conquest got a twofold power over man . . . an interest in his heart [2 Tim 2:26] . . . a power to punish him [Heb. 2:14]." (262)

"By overcoming temptations, he doth overcome Satan as a tempter; and by death he overcame him as a tormentor

3. With respect to the saints

Heb. 2:18

Heb. 4:15

4. With respect to Christ

"That he might be an exact pattern of obedience to God. . . that he might by example teach us what reason we have to hold to God against the strongest temptations." (263)

IV. The Good of this to Us

1. To show us who is our grand enemy

ho echthros, the enemy—Matt. 13:39

ho poneros, the wicked one—Matt. 13:19

"a liar and murderer"—John 8:44

2. That all men are subject to temptations
 “. . . if the devil tempted our Saviour, he will be much more bold with us.” (263)

“None go to heaven without a trial.” (263)

3. The manner of conflict

- 3.1. Satan’s fight

1 John 2:16 (cf. Gen. 3:8)

Lusts of the flesh

Lusts of the eye

Pride of life

Matt. 4

Turn stones into bread—satisfy lust of the flesh

Fall down and worship—satisfy lust of the eye

Jump down into the air—pride of life

“Here are our snares, which we must constantly avoid.” (264)

- 3.2. Christ’s defense

[1] By scripture

Eph. 6:17; 1 John 2:14

“It is good to have the word of God abide in our memories, but chiefly in our hearts, by a sound belief and fervent love to the truth.” (264)

[2] By resolution

1 Peter 4:1

4. The hope of success

John 16:33

V. Use

1. To reckon upon temptations

“As soon as we mind our baptismal covenant, we must expect that Satan will be our professed foe, seeking to terrify or allure us from the banner of our captain, Jesus Christ.” (264)

Four types of hypocrites in the visible church:

[1] “Many, after baptism, fly to Satan’s camp.” (2 Peter 2:9)

“Now these are the devil’s agents, and the more dangerous because they use Christ’s name against his offices, and the form of his religion, to destroy the power thereof.” (265)

[2] “Other are not venomously and malignantly set against Christ . . . but tamely yield to the lusts of the flesh.” (265)

[3] "Men, that begin to be serious." (Matt. 13:19)

[4] "Such as have made some progress in religion, even to a degree of eminency."

2. The manner and way of his fight is by the world—by the good or evil things of the world

Temptation by good things: 1 Chron. 21:1

Temptation by evil things: Job 1:11

3. His end is to dissuade us from good, and persuade us to evil

4. While we are striving against temptations, let us remember our general
Rom. 16:2—"Not his feet, but ours: we shall be conquerors." (266)

Rev. 5:5, 8—"The notion of a lamb intimateth his sacrifice, the notion of a lion his victory: in the lamb is merit, in the lion strength; by the one he maketh satisfaction to God, by the other he rescueth sinners out of the paw of the roaring lion, and maintaineth his interest in their hearts." (266)