

Luke 4:9-13 Jesus' Hope in the Faithfulness of God

Jesus overcame the temptation to test His Father by hoping in the faithfulness of God.

- 1) Satan tempted Jesus to prove God's protection by "forcing" God to act (4:9-11).
 - a) "Jerusalem/Temple"—the locale of God's revelation, worship, and prayer; "God's rescue will reveal You as Son of God." (cf. Luke 11:29)
 - b) "Pinnacle"—verbal connection to Psalm 91:4 "Under His wings you will find protection"; "If God will keep His word anywhere, surely he will keep it here at the temple, in the very shadow of His wings"
 - c) Satan's misuse of Psalm 91 by misconstruing the relationship of man to God
 - i) "My God in whom I trust" (Ps. 91:2)—man is to trust God, not test Him
 - ii) "A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked." (Ps. 91:7-8)—probably recalling the generation of Israel that fell in the wilderness, and the lesson their children learned from God's chastisement for their unbelief
 - iii) "I will be with him in trouble" (Ps. 91:15)—no promise of a trouble-free life, but a promise of God's saving presence, with a final reward of life (91:16)
 - iv) Irony: Ps. 91:13 was an exorcism text in Second Temple Judaism: "You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot."
 - d) There is always a temptation for man to demand the reward for faith and obedience before believing and obeying.
- 2) Jesus resisted the devil with hope in the faithfulness of God (4:12).
 - a) "It is said"—many see this introductory formula as mere stylistic variation on "it is written"; could it be a response to the devil's misappropriation of "it is written"—"You devil have read the text, but you have not repeated what is being said there."
 - b) "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test" (Deut. 6:16).—It is not for man to require something of God, but to give to God what He requires. Dt. 6:17: "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes, which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD promised you."—Think of these words being applied in this new context as Jesus faces *the* enemy of God's people.
 - c) God's faithfulness is "proven" in the context of man's/Christ's obedience, not as a response to man's whims and demands.
 - d) "He departed from Him until an opportune time"—By His hope in God's faithfulness, Christ thrusts out His enemy.
 - e) Adore Jesus Christ for His trust and hope in the Father's protection and faithfulness.
 - f) In Christ, learn to walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).