

March 24, 2019 - Speaker - Dave Solmes  
Text: Luke 4:1-13 - The Temptations of Christ

We face temptations everyday. Long before we have a behavioural temptation we have a crisis of belief which is will always be followed by a personal value choice. Every day our belief informs values which is seen in our behaviour

2 Questions from Week #1:

- When trusting God for my daily bread can I be generous?
- Can I follow a God who wants to get our money moving around to take care of me, you, our neighbour, and our stranger?

2 Questions from Week #2

- Can I trust God to lead me as I chose not to reach for power, nor take charge of my life?
- Will we choose to serve a God who serves and allow Him to lead us along a path of generosity?

Third Temptation of Jesus

Luke 4: 11-13 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

The tempter led Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. A familiar place to Jesus. In this final temptation the tempter was wanting to turn Jesus passive and patient faith into presumptuous faith. The tempter misquoted Psalm 91 as the appeal was made.

The tempter misquoted Psalm 91 so that Jesus would lose sight of the most important narrative. That narrative being God's plan and purpose. This is what Jesus had been charged to do, any other obligations were secondary if important at all. The narrative of this temptation was an attempt to keep Jesus from completing His service.

Psalm 91:11-12 - For He will tell His angels to care for you and keep (guard) you in all your ways. They will hold you up in their hands. So, your foot will not hit against a stone. (NLT). (cross reference Luke 4:11-12)

The anchor word or the "why" of this verse in Psalm 91 is in the keeping, guarding, protecting of what we have been charged to do. To keep within the boundary. To help restrain you of any other obligations than the obligations to the call of God upon your life. This keeping, tending, guarding is about God's discharging responsibility to us. People having a plan and a purpose, and this being accomplished in someone's life.

In all three temptations we see the tempter trying to get Jesus to change His belief about who He was. To place value on His own will, preference, to go off course, put God to the test and take matters into His own hands.

Question: How do we find it within ourselves to walk obediently in the same direction for long periods of time allowing the favour of God and the fruit of faithful obedience to satisfy us? And to do this even when our own personal temptations call in to question God's ability to provide for us, lead us, and protect us

Lessons from Jesus' Temptations about serving God in "All our Ways":

Identity: God wants you to be secure in His love and care for you.

Aligning: Belief informs values which is seen in our behaviour.

Generosity: God wants you on path of generosity (begin with tithes, offerings, alms)

Trusting: God's plans may lead to adversity rather than ease and comfort.

Submitting: God's plans may block your personal goals and preferences.

Serving: God's plan is that you serve wholeheartedly the God that serves.

Question: If you were asked to name one area that is hardest right now what would it be?

Question: What would it look like to live beyond that obstacle to your faith.