

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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LESSONS FROM JESUS' TEMPTATION

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In Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation (Matt. 4:1-11), there are many and varied lessons to learn. Consider these with me.

1) Everyone Who Walks On Earth Is Tempted.

To this fact Jesus was not an exception. Even our Lord was enticed to do those things which are wrong. Paul notified his readers that temptation is "common" to man (1 Cor. 10:13). Sadly, all men yield to temptation and sin (Rom. 3:23), and become subject to its penalty, "death" (Rom. 6:23). Jesus was able to overcome temptation, and so can we!

2) The Devil Will Tempt Man At His Weakest Point.

A simple reading of our text will indicate Jesus had been fasting 40 days and nights. I think we can safely assume he was very hungry. In fact, famished. So what does the devil tempt Him to do first? Make stones into bread! Do not be foolish enough to disregard the fact Satan will find a weak point and attack it!

3) Scripture Is Our Most Effective Weapon Against Temptation.

However, it can only be part of our arsenal if we study and meditate upon it daily (Acts 17:11). Timothy was told, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Further, the prophet warned, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6).

Knowing, and memorizing God's Law is a priceless attribute. David knew this as he wrote "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). Jesus used Scripture as each temptation mounted. We should too!

4) Satan Is Diligent At His Business.

And his business is simple, to cause folks to stay away and go away from God. When Jesus rebuffed Him once, he came at Him again. As Jesus denied Satan a second time, the tempter returned for a third

attempt. He will do the same in our lives. This is why Peter warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Pet. 5:8). Remember, Satan has a bag of "devices" (II Cor. 2:11), he is a "liar" (Jn. 8:44) and will even be "transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14) to bring your soul into his fold. Be wary!

5) The Devil Will Flee

Eventually. The words of James are as true today as when they were written, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jam. 4:7). When Jesus rejected the devil's third and final temptation, he fled. He came against Job twice, in ruthless fashion. The same can be and will be true of us. We must fight the urge to sin. We must repel the devil's pleas, and he will flee. But do not make the mistake of thinking he will not return, for he surely will, and we must be ready to battle again!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TALEBEARING

John Isaac Edwards

Talebearing is sister to slander. A talebearer is one who gives birth to or carries an account of a real or imagined event, a piece of gossip (easy, fluent, trivial talk; talk about people behind their backs), a lie (The New Webster's Dictionary). The talebearer exerts a power no less harmful to the Lord's body than the slanderer.

1) Talebearing Is A Shalt Not. The old covenant contained this talebearing ordinance: *"Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people...I am the Lord"* (Lev. 19:16). To understand the seriousness of violating a spiritual "shalt not," simply take note of the sentence pronounced upon Adam and Eve for doing that which divine law said not to do (Gen. 2:16-17; 3). You're not known as a talebearer among thy people, are you?

2) Talebearing Reveals Secrets. In setting forth moral virtues and their contrary vices, Solomon uttered, *"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that*

is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Prov. 11:13). Again it is written, *"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips"* (Prov. 20:19). The talebearer cannot work alone - he must have a second party. Are you aware that you are a facilitator to talebearing when you give ear to a talebearer?

3) Talebearing Inflicts Deep, Penetrating Wounds. *"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly"* (Prov. 18:8; 26:22). Words from the mouth can be like arrows from a bow. *"For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart"* (Psa. 11:2). The lacerations can be long in healing.

4) Talebearing Kindles Strife. *"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife"*

(Prov. 26:20). A fire is constantly burning among some as there are those constantly stirring up strife, and it can be smothered by not tolerating talebearing!

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body" (Jam 3:2).

"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth" (Jam. 3:5).

"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (Jam. 3:6).

"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (Jam. 3:8).

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matt. 12:37).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm