

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 4: 9-13**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 4, verses 9 to 13.

**Verses 9–11: “Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you, and, In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”**

Satan is truly cunning. Seeing that in the first two temptations, Jesus quoted Scripture, all from Deuteronomy. Therefore, for the third temptation, the devil took Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.” The temple in Jerusalem is the place where God’s people worship God. Jumping from the pinnacle of the temple and remaining unharmed would definitely be a miracle, one that would attract the attention and admiration of the crowds. Satan not only did this but even quoted Scripture, saying, “He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you; they shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.” This quotation comes from Psalm 91:11–12. If we turn to Psalm 91:11–12, it says, “For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”

Satan quoted Scripture, but incompletely; he omitted some words. What words did he omit? “In all your ways.” God has predetermined the path for each of our lives; when we walk according to God’s will, God will protect us, He will command His angels to protect us, and even when we are about to stumble, they will bear us up in their hands, lest we dash our foot against a stone. But the entire premise is “in all your ways.” Therefore, we must be familiar with Scripture; if we are not familiar

with Scripture, it is very easy to be deceived by Satan. Jesus saw through Satan's intention very clearly.

**Verse 12: "And Jesus answered and said to him, 'It has been said, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."'"**

This statement comes from Deuteronomy 6:16. Very obviously, Jesus saw through Satan's scheme at a glance; he quoted Scripture but quoted it incompletely. Jumping down from the pinnacle of the temple would force God to send His angels to protect Him. Is this not tempting God? Performing miracles is according to God's intention, not according to our needs, and especially not for showing off before people. "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."

**Verse 13: "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."**

In the devil's three temptations, Jesus overcame them all.

Let us look at these three temptations as a whole again. Fundamentally, the devil wanted Jesus to leave His position as the Son of Man and stand in the position of the Son of God to perform miracles. Actually, Satan's method of tempting people has never changed; from the beginning when he tempted Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, he is now using exactly the same method to tempt Jesus.

In Genesis 3:6 it says, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." We see that Eve fell into Satan's temptation in three steps. The first was seeing that the fruit was good for food. This speaks of man's bodily needs, survival needs. This corresponds to Satan's first temptation toward Jesus: when He was hungry after forty days, he challenged Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." So the first temptation is bodily survival needs.

Next, the second temptation: the fruit was “pleasant to the eyes,” making one feel comfortable in the soul; this is the need of the soul. After our survival needs are satisfied, the soul has soul’s needs: you must have power, you must have influence, you must enjoy all kinds of splendor. This corresponds to Satan taking Jesus to a high mountain and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; it also corresponds to today’s promotions at work, salary increases, or becoming famous, or gaining status, or gaining power. These are all soul’s needs, pleasant to the eyes and ears.

The third temptation, “desirable to make one wise,” corresponds to the need of the spirit. Just as Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and told Him to jump down from there, to let God send His angels to protect Him, to perform a miracle before the crowds and gain their admiration. This also corresponds to what John says in 1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” The lust of the flesh—eating what, wearing what; the lust of the eyes—pleasant to the eyes and ears, making one feel happy; the pride of life—making one wise, gaining people’s respect.

How Satan tempted Jesus back then, today likewise, Satan still uses the same method to tempt every child of God. The first and most basic temptation is your survival needs, your bodily needs: you need to eat, you need to wear, you need to live. After you pass this test, Satan comes with the second temptation, which is your soul needs: you must have power, you must have fame, you must have influence; of course, the price is that you must worship him. A person’s worship is a person’s lifelong service. If you make money, status, and fame what you pursue in this life, you become a Christian who worships Satan all his life and serves Satan all his life.

If we today can overcome bodily needs, can overcome soul needs, Satan’s most powerful scheme is to take you to the pinnacle of the temple and tell you to jump down from there, to see if God will come to save you. To make us seem to force God to perform some miracles, so that we gain others’ admiration and recognition. Especially when a saint can lay aside his living needs, can even resist all kinds of

worldly temptations, and put his whole heart in the church, in learning to serve. Because by laying oneself down, one gains the respect of the crowds; at this time, we need to be especially careful. Many times, without realizing it, we are placed in a position of tempting God.

If we truly know God, truly understand God's will, for every matter happening around us, there will be an inexplicable peace from God in our hearts. In such peace, you can recognize God's leading on you, even God's leading on the brothers and sisters around you whom you serve. Perhaps God will allow a certain saint to be unemployed for a period of time; perhaps God will allow a certain saint to be in some difficult circumstances. Many times, when we pass through hardships, it can make this person draw closer to God, appear more holy before God.

Every Christian has a treasure inside; if the outer clay vessel is not broken, the treasure cannot be manifested. But too many times, if we do not understand God's intention and blindly want God to heal, want God to preserve, want God to remove difficulties, actually this is no different from Satan wanting Jesus to jump down from the pinnacle of the temple. We must especially ask God to help us, not to let us fall into some religious ideologies. God has never promised that the sky is always blue, the flowers always fragrant. Sometimes God allows us to fall into certain circumstances, in certain limitations; He uses His peace to guard our hearts and minds, letting us learn to truly follow Him.

Luke's Gospel is to witness that Jesus is a complete man. For man, the order of temptation starts first from bodily needs—what to eat, what to wear, where to live; next is our soul needs—fame, status, power; finally is the spirit need—gaining people's admiration and praise in the temple. Therefore, Satan's temptations are also according to these three different directions, becoming increasingly severe.

But in Matthew chapter 4, the same wilderness temptations, the first is still turning stones into bread, which is bodily needs. But the second and third are reversed; the second is jumping down from the pinnacle of the temple, and the third is the glory of all kingdoms. Because Matthew proves that Jesus is the coming King; therefore, for a king, ruling over all kingdoms is the ultimate temptation. Therefore, when we

read the Bible, we should not only read the facts; after reading the facts, we must enter into the author's intention; according to the author's purpose of writing, he arranges the material and proceeds with different sequences.

May God help us, in all things, to follow the good example Jesus set. Learn to let the word of God dwell in us richly; when Satan's temptation comes, we can use the word of God to resist Satan's attack.

Let us pray together: Lord, once again we commit this day's time into Your hands; help me, through reading Your word, to know Your intention more, to know Your leading on me today more. Bless every work in my hands to be in accordance with Your will. Also bless my life this day to become Your beautiful testimony. I pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.