

This morning I would like to speak about the temptation of Jesus. So we will turn to Luke. The story of the temptation is in Mt. and Lk. Mt. has a brief note at the end that Lk. omits that I believe is rather vital, but Lk. has the account in the order in which I wish to deal with it today. There the last two temptations are presented in a different order in Mt. than in Lk. There are those who have said this must mean he was tempted twice. Once in one order, once in the other order. The words are so exactly the same of most of it that I don't think it is necessary to reach any such conclusion.

I don't think either of them necessarily gives us the precise order in which the temptations occur. But each gives an account of the three temptations and I believe they are very vital for our understanding and for our Christian life.

So we will read them in the book of Luke. There we read in ch. 4, "Jesus full of the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was for 40 days tempted by the devil." When the Holy Spirit has marvellously used us that's the very time when we may find ourselves terribly tempted by the devil. Jesus went into the wilderness and there for 40 days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days. At the end of them he was hungry. (Reading text of Lk. 4:1-12) . . .

Jesus answered, It is written: Man does not live on bread alone." Here as in most of the quotations from the OT, it is not simply the words that matter; it is the OT passage that the words remind us of. The passage from which this is taken says Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." /The spiritual food is what we need most. Moody said, This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book." If we neglect the Word of God; if we think we know enough about it that we can neglect it we are in serious danger.

Jesus did not have to stop when Satan tempted him and say, Where can I find an answer to that. Let's get a concordance. I have an impression that there is a verse that will give the exact answer to the problem that I'm facing here! His mind was so filled with the OT Word of God that he immediately had the answer.

We do not find the Word of God by simply taking a few words as they stand in Scripture. We find the Word of God by getting the ideas of Scripture, and by filling our minds with the ideas that we find that when the tempter comes, or when a crisis comes immediately the Holy Spirit can bring to our attention out of our subconsciousness the very answer that God wants us to have. at that time. So Jesus is an example to us in the way He answers the devil. But we find the devil was not driven away by that excellent answer from God's Word. There was another temptation. Whether this temptation came the same day, whether it came a week or two later, we do not know. We are told that he was