Resisting Temptation Sun Am 1/30/23

# Memory Verse: Matthew 4:4 NKJV

4But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

Target Thought: Resisting Temptation

How many of you know how to play the game "Simon Says?" If Simon says to do something, you do it, but if Simon doesn't say to do it, you don't do it. Are you ready to play?

Let's play.

Simon says, "Raise your hand." (Pause.)

Simon says, "Raise your other hand." (Pause.)

"Okay, put your hands down." (Pause.) Uh-oh! I caught some of you on that one, didn't I? Did Simon say, "Put your hands down." No, let’s try again.

Simon says, "Put your hands down." (Pause.)

Simon says, "Flap your elbows." (Pause.)

Simon says, "Clap your hands." (Pause.)

Touch your nose. (Pause.) Oops! I caught some of you again. Let's try one more time.

Simon says, "Touch your nose." (Pause.)

Pull your ear! (Pause.) Good! I didn't trick you that time. You’re catching on to the game now.

In the game of Simon Says, we do what Simon says to do, but in real life we should do what the Bible tells us to do. Did you know that the devil will try to trick you into doing what he wants you to do? Did you know that the devil tried to trick and tempt Jesus? Let’s read:

Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

4But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

5Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, ‘and, ‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”7Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ Let’s pause here for just a moment and find out how do we tempt God? We tempt God by purposely disobeying God.

”8Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”10Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”11Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

The Bible says, "Thou shalt not steal," but if you go to the store to buy something and the cashier gives you too much money back, the devil will try to get you to keep it. He will say, "That isn't stealing," but if we take something that doesn't belong to us, it is stealing, isn't it?

The Bible says, "Love your enemies," but when someone does something to hurt you, the devil will say, "Hurt them back, after all, they hurt you first."

The Bible says, "Thou shalt not lie" but when you accidentally break your mother's vase and she asks if you know how it got broken, the devil will say, "Don't tell the truth. If you tell the truth, it will just get you into more trouble."

When the devil tried to get Jesus to do things that were wrong, Do you know what Jesus did? Jesus answered him with Scripture, the Bible. That’s is the way to defeat the devil, isn't it? Just read the Bible and do what it tells you to do -- not what the devil tells you to do! When we face temptation we say and do what the Bible tells us.

Dear God, help us do what Jesus did. Help us do what the Bible tells us to do instead of listening to what the devil wants us to do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

1 Did the devil try to trick and tempt Jesus?

2 How do we tempt God?

3 What do we say and do when we face temptation?