**Week of February 2, 2020**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Key Verse:** “10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

(Matthew 4:10)

**1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written\*, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.** **10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In this week lesson we find Jesus being led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to fast and pray for forty days and nights. The text is often referred as to as “The Temptation of Jesus.” The forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness recalls the forty years that the Israelites strayed in the wilderness after the Exodus and Elijah’s forty-day journey into the Sinai wilderness.

While Jesus was in the wilderness, Satan tempted Him three times. Satan’s first temptation challenged Jesus physical needs. Having been in the wilderness for so many days, Jesus was hungry. Satan challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy His hunger. Jesus let Satan know that He was depending on the written Word of God rather than food to sustain Him in the wilderness. Satan wanted Jesus to trust in His own provisions instead of God.

Satan’s second temptation challenged Jesus’ position as the Son of God. Satan took Jesus to the high southeast corner of the Temple platform that overlooked the great depth of the Kidron Valley. From there, Jesus could see all of Jerusalem behind Him. Satan wanted Jesus to prove that angels would come to his rescue at His command. Again, Jesus took Satan to the scriptures that warned against testing God. Jesus did not have to prove anything to Satan. He knew He was the Son of God.

The third temptation challenged Jesus’ pride. Satan tried to convince Jesus that he would give Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus firmly ordered Satan to leave His presence and resisted by telling Satan that only God deserves to be served and worshipped. In every instance, Jesus conquered temptation by referring to the Word of God.

Reprint from The Sunday School Publishing Board

