

<b>Topic</b>	Temptation of Jesus
<b>Reference</b>	Matthew 4:1-11
<b>Date</b>	17 January 2021
<b>Speaker</b>	Dr Peter Ng

Morning FBC. Today we are going to be looking at a very important topic “Temptation”. Temptation affects all of us. We're goanna be looking at it in the temptation of our Lord Jesus Christ and see how he handles it and perhaps this provides a template for our own spiritual struggles.

Now let's look at the passage,

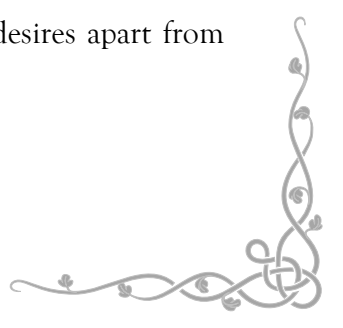
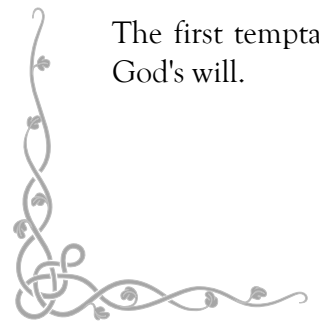
1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

Here we have a situation where Jesus right after the baptism, in which the father said, this is my beloved son. That's the most important thing that come out from that. Jesus led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, after fasting 40 days and 40 nights. 40 days and 40 nights is significant because 40 years is where Israel was tempted in the wilderness. Right, so he is trying to retrace the steps of Israel. It's just like, if you look what's in the news today, you've got the new president coming in, President Biden and then the old president going out, President Trump. And what the new president's going to do when he gets back into the White House, he's going to look at every single order which Donald Trump has given and he is going to reverse it. The only way he is going to reverse and he is the only person who can reverse it because he's the next president. He goes back to the same place in which those orders were given in the White House and he reverses every single one. And in a sense, that's what the meaning of repentance is.

David and Suzanne Adams talked about repentance. Repentance is metanoia, change in mindset. And the most important thing that we need to understand to receive God's kingdom coming is to repent, which means stop looking at Adam and start looking at the new King. The new King is Jesus, established in Matthew chapter one through his genealogy, linked all the way back to King David. He was Emmanuel and the Messiah and then he acted as Israel, saved out of Egypt, brought into the wilderness, baptized to identify with Israel. So Jesus, as it was, retracing the steps of the old Adam, because he is the new Adam and he is the true Israel.

Adam lost Eden and wound up in the wilderness and what is happening is that Jesus from the wilderness, retracing those steps and reversing the order and bringing mankind back into Eden. And we're going to look at three temptations, which are common to all of us, every single one of us experiences, is a temptation to self-gratification. Temptation to self-esteem and temptation to self-exaltation.

The first temptation is a **temptation to self-gratification**. We're tempted to fulfil our desires apart from God's will.



3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

Here, you have a situation where Adam and Eve was tempted in the garden of Eden with every desire fulfilled. They've got the best food, the best environment, and Jesus was tempted in a situation where he has got every desire denied and he didn't have a wife. He was all alone. And the focus of temptation is always on desires; desire to flesh, desires of the eyes and the pride of life.

Now you look at this cartoon, the two dogs, and the first dog is not going to be tempted by the apples because dogs don't eat apples. It's an issue of nature. He's looking at the other dog because he's got this roast chicken. And the question that pops to mind in terms of the temptation of Jesus, can he really be tempted? Because if you read in James that God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one. So how can this be a legitimate temptation where Jesus trying to retrace the footsteps of Adam and do better. So we have this issue of the incarnation where God becomes man, taking upon himself complete humanity. Could he be tempted? And could he actually sin?

Let's look at the process of temptation and sin. Now James says

James 1:14 Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 And then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin and sin when it's fully grown brings forth death.

Desire, sin, death. Now desire is neutral. Big Panda looking at a whole basket of pau, nothing wrong with that. You tell him those pau is stolen, then it becomes sinful. Sexual desire. Looking at another woman when your wife is standing next to you not a good idea. Sinful desire. Looking at your own wife. That's normal desire. Desire is actually neutral. The differences one is within God's will and one is not. Then you've got an external source. External source of temptation in this case is Satan. The tempter who comes in. In the garden of Eden, the external source was also Satan who says to the woman, did God actually say you shall not eat of the tree in the garden? So both is the same.

Now Jesus' temptation and our temptation is a little bit different because Jesus and us, we have an external source, Satan, comes into our lives and offers temptation to us. Preying on our feelings and our desires, but for us, we actually have an external internal source, an extra sauce. This is basically our own sinful nature. Romans chapter 7:22

For I delight in the law of God in my inner being, but I see in my members, another war waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

So therefore Paul is saying inside my body there is another source of tension that makes me want to sin. The same as David and Bathsheba. Remember that the episode in the Bible where he wakes up in the morning, he takes one accidental look and he says, Oh, beautiful woman taking a bath without any clothes. The first look is neutral. It's temptation. Then instead of covering his eyes and running back, he takes a second look. The second look is due to his sinful nature. That's lust. So, the internal sauce. Did Jesus wake up in the morning and is so hungry that I think I will disobey God and I will turn a stone into bread. That would have been the case if Jesus was exactly like us having a sinful nature but he is not. He

didn't have a sinful nature. You've got legitimate desire for hunger. What's wrong with Jesus making bread. But Jesus said, as it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. The point is Jesus is unlike any of us, he is fully God and fully man. If he had succumb to that temptation and used miraculous means to turn stone into bread, what he would have done here, he would have no longer been obeying this in the strength of his human nature alone. When Jesus is tempted, he had been tempted, face the full force of temptation with the strength of his human will and human ability. All right. And if he was actually to employ divine means it means he would not have been truly tempted.

So he would no longer being obeying in the strength of the human nature alone. Hebrews chapter 4 says,

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin.

Hebrew fully says Jesus was fully tempted. Let's go back to Matthew chapter 3 where John is having a conversation with Jesus and he is actually not happy to actually baptize Jesus, because Jesus got no sin. In fact, John said, I need to be baptized by you, you know and you come to me, but Jesus said to him, let it be so now for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness then John consented. What did John with Jesus mean when he said to John to fulfill all righteousness. What does that actually mean? Well, it means that Jesus assuming the role of the new Adam, because the old Adam failed miserably in the best of circumstances, Jesus comes to the worst of circumstances under and is basically been tempted. And Paul says in Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience, the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

He is retracing the steps, the only difference is that he will be obedient where Adam was disobedient. And so what happening here is that Jesus work applies to us or his vicarious. His righteousness is both in death and in life. He lived a perfect life of abundance in every dimension of the law, so that that righteousness could be imputed on us. And he died to pay for our penalty. He lived to live the kind of life of our righteousness. He could easily come and fast-track himself right through the cross and died, but that he wouldn't have lived a righteous life to fulfill all righteous.

So let's get back to Matthew chapter three and Matthew chapter four. Matthew chapter three, God says, this is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased. Why is he well pleased? Because he is testifying that Jesus is God's son in glory, which means because he is God son, the life that he lives and a death that he dies is efficacious for the whole of humanity. If you and I die, you will die for yourself. But because he is God's son in glory, his death and his life can be lived for us. And in chapter four, he goes and be tempted because he to show that he is God's son in obedience, so that in this way he fulfills all righteousness, which he can give to us. Now second issue with Jesus' temptation is that yes he could be tempered but could he actually sin. Could Jesus sin?

While we have a unique situation in the incarnation where Jesus has full humanity, which means got the limited ability, fragility, racked with desire and a human will and on the other hand he is all knowing, all

powerful with the divine will, but this is where he is tempted, but could he have failed? There is a mystery there is interaction between the divine will and the human will in such a way that Jesus could not sin. He could be tempted but he could not sin because the divine will would have interacted with the human will as it were. But does that make his temptation any less real compared to us. Take a look at these two pictures. That's us. We try to lift the weight, but we fail and that's Jesus lifts the entire weight and is successful. Which person faces the full force of the weight, while the person that faces the full force of temptation is Jesus because he's successful in overcoming. We have given in to the temptation. So therefore we never faced the full force of temptation, which Jesus actually faced. Which person faces the full force of temptation, Jesus in the desert alone where every desire is denied or Adam and Eve where every desire is fulfilled. Jesus faced the full power of temptation.

Now let's look into temptation. Temptation always has an external source, Satan. He provides the deception and internal desires. It requires participation from us for what we feel and God gives us God given desires, which are basically neutral; desire for food, sex, glory, beauty, and they are given to us so that we would be able to use them in a direction that is directed towards God. So if you take the food that God gives, it provides nourishment, it go nice and strong. If you use your sex and it provides you love, companionship and family. If you use this desire for glory, you give glory to God, desire for beauty. You use it to worship and appreciate God in his creation in this world.

Now there is another direction in which we can direct our desires. Our desires can be directed towards ourselves and that is called sin. All right. And we're always tempted to go into that direction where we will be controlled by their desires rather than desires controlling us. And so therefore, if our desires have taken over us, the desire for food becomes gluttony. Desire for sex becomes lust. Desire for glory becomes pride. Desire for beauty becomes obsessive materialism. So desires were never meant to be guidelines. Desires are given and feelings are given by God to us to become gauges. It tells us where you are, it shouldn't take over and tell you where to go.

I remember having a gauge, a Fitbit. The Fitbit tells you how fit you are. How many steps you have taken, so when are you going to die next 10 years or not? It gives you some idea of your health, but your Fitbit can also to be a guide where you are actually controlled because you have made instead of 10,000 steps, you've got 9,999. So therefore it forces you to do the extra one step. It can be a guideline rather than a gauge, but it shouldn't be, if we are controlled by our feelings this the disastrous. The is Harry Schaumburg and he actually testifies as a Christian counselor and he says,

*God's action is severe in that he gives us over not only to our desires, but to a condition of ungovernable desires. We demand, God steps back. He chooses to regulate our lives rather than to honoring and obeying. If we choose to regulate our own lives rather than to honor and obey God, we will lose the ability to regulate our desires.*

So what's Harry Schaumburg is saying is that if we give into our desires, we'll find that our desires become unleashed, unfettered, uncontrollable and they will in the end control us. This is a big controversy nowadays is idea. This article on CNN about being gender fluid. This young woman from California is basically telling us on certain circumstances she feels like a male.

*The tone of my voice does change. It becomes a bit more forward. My voice drops a bit. I've been told that I walk really muscular and I puff my chest when I'm walking and then when she feels like she is in a safer place, she becomes more feminine and she says, my voice gets a little higher. I drop my shoulders. I allow people to just get closer to me emotionally and in a physical way for me in particular, when I'm in touch with my feminine side, I feel soft.*

So few minutes in a day she is female's, few minutes in a day she is male, but if you take that feeling and you actually act on it, gender surgery. Then you will find mutilating kind of surgery where man becomes a woman and woman becomes a man. And there is a longest study on this particular kind of surgery showing us that these are controls people who haven't gone through any surgery. These are the death rates and these are death rates of people who have undergone gender surgery and you'll find that the suicide rate of the people who acted according to the feelings is 20 times greater than the normal person.

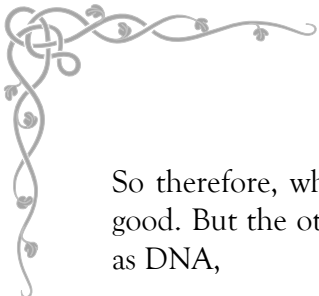
We cannot follow our feelings. We cannot be controlled by our feelings. This is Professor Paul McHugh, an expert in transgender surgery. He is from the John Hopkins University School of Medicine. He writes

*Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex of which they identify in that lies their problematic future.*

This is why many of them actually kill themselves. Here we actually have Satan coming in a form of a snake and there is a deception. He says you will not die when you take of the forbidden fruit and that's the deception. On the other hand that deception will not work unless there is participation in our desires. And so when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise. The eyes, desire and basically to make one wise, that is self-gratification. You've got this and then sin is giving birth. The power of temptation is self-gratification. The feeling that I will be happier, I will be better off if I give in to my feelings and here the deception is Satan comes to Jesus and says, if you are the son of God, that means one chapter ago, the father just said you are my son. And here Satan, say, if you are my son, and so therefore that's a deception. And then that's a deception on the table and Jesus looks at the piece of stone turning in bread. Bread is good. You know, it's a win-win situation. Your self-gratification, you are hungry. All right. And you also prove your identity. So that's the deception, but Jesus said this, it is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Now, when I was much younger looking at his passage, it always dawned upon me. I thought that, you know, you got to really be good with scripture, scripture is like a gunslinger. You got the right temptation, you pull out the right verse. We were able to survive. No, if you look in the background, scripture needs to change your DNA. How we actually instinctively react when temptation comes, it can't be something that you remember. It is scripture has so permeated your being that it changes how you feel. Jeremiah chapter 15,

*Your words were found and I ate them and your words became to me a joy and a delight of my heart for I am called by your name.*



So therefore, when the word of God comes to Jeremiah, it brings joy and delight, he savors I, he feels good. But the other hand, when he interacts with other people, because the word of God has so changed as DNA,

*I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice. These are sinners. I sat alone. Because your hand was upon me. You're filled me with indignation. Why is my pain increasing and my wound incurable.*

So he is totally uncomfortable when he sees sin in society. Has the gospel true metanoia to true repentance is when the gospel has changed our mindset. Instead of looking at Adam, we are looking at Christ. Imagine you receive a boatload of money, what is the first thing you think, you are happy. Why are you happy? Happy, because you go and buy the new Mercedes-Benz 5 series or 7 series. If that's the case, then the gospel hasn't changed your mindset. If you're happy, because finally you have the means to be able to make a difference in the kingdom, perhaps help some poor children's home or commit to the spread of gospel somewhere else. That means your mindset has changed. What about a promotion when you get one? Is that purely financial or has the gospel changed your mindset in that you instinctively think I could use this for the sake of the gospel and the kingdom.

For Jesus, it was trust in God's word. God said to him, This is my beloved son of which I'm well pleased, and that it was fixed in his DNA and God's will. The spirit is the one who sent him into the wilderness. In land of America, it's called the land of the free in the home of the brave. And recently you can see a whole bunch of people, thousands actually attack their own Capitol buildings, it is like attacking our parliament house. And they're all led by a deception. The deception is that we're actually fighting for freedom and before this, there was actually a good interview by Rachel Maddow on CNN and they actually interviewed a professor of history from Yale called Timothy Snyder, who wrote a book called On Tyranny. And he's said, You can't lie your way to freedom if you indulge in the big lie. If you believe in the big lie, if you act on the basis of a big lie, you are not really free you are the creature of somebody else.

What is he saying is that, in terms of tyranny, you could tyrannize an entire segment of the population of nation simply by telling lies and the people who believe their lies are no longer free. Here you actually have a whole bunch of them in the Capitol building. Are they really free? No, they're not. They belong to him because they've bought into his lie. Timothy Snyder, continuous. He says,

*The problem with this country is that we have defined freedom as doing the thing you feel like doing, saying the things you want to say, whether it is true or false, but when you take part in these big false stories, you are not really free.*

And this applies to us, the big lie is by Satan. Big deception is by Satan. We think that we follow our feelings we are truly being free. We can have sex with anybody we like, we can lie as we lie. As long as we give into our feelings. If you do that that is not really freedom. You are not really free. You are enslaved to the one who owns you with a lie and that's Satan. So we need to embrace our desires. They're not wrong, but we use them for the glory of God. We need not to be controlled by them. They're a gauge of where our hearts are, but they are not our guidelines on what to do. We need to experience them within the parameters of God's word. And we need to understand that our desires are not going to be completely fulfilled down.

There are foretaste of what God has installed for us in the future. So that's the first temptation, self-gratification.

The other two temptations we will deal with them fairly quickly. Temptation 2 is temptation to self-esteem. Here we have Jesus brought to the Holy city, which is Jerusalem, where God's presence is and even much holier you go to the temple and he takes it right at the top of the temple and said to you,

*if you are the son of God, throw yourself down for it is written and is quotation from Psalm 91 that he will command the angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

That's God's promise. And Jesus said,

*Again, it is written. You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.*

And here you actually have Jesus putting God on the spot because here at the temple, the temple is a place where it symbolizes the presence of God. Here the entire nation of Israel. The place that most symbolizes the presence of God is in temple and he's at the top. And the devil is asking him, well, you know, if you are the son of God, just throw yourself down. I mean, what do you achieve throwing yourself down? There's nothing that you can achieve. You achieved nothing at all. It is done just to prove what God had already told you. God already told Jesus in Matthew chapter 3:17. This is my beloved son. And now you come out in the desert after 40 days of pressure, you're going to have to prove yourself to yourself. What God's already done. It forces God to act and God is like your genie, it transfers power from God's will to your faith. It's like you rubbing the genie bottle and forces God to come out to give you three wishes. It is like, imagine you were given the rank of a general in the army. And in order to believe you have the rank of general, you have to walk into the army camp three times a day and have people salute you and then you will believe you're the general. If I were tell you a general, I'll give you a badge. You wouldn't believe it. And what's happening here is that it's self-esteem, it's not faith.

He's actually asking Jesus to throw himself off to prove to Jesus himself what Jesus already been promised by God that he is God's son. So it questions God's precedence and it manipulates God's promises. And we do that, don't we? We want demonstrations of power with signs and wonders and this pastor E. W. Jackson who is basically a mega church pastor in the COVID-19 crisis, he says,

*I'm not going to get the coronavirus. I'm not going to give anybody the coronavirus cause I can't get it because I've had talked to God about it. I've taken my vaccine. My vaccine is Psalm 91. I'm free of this mess.*

So his vaccine is not from Moderna, Pfizer or Sinovac, his vaccine is Psalm 91 and Psalm 91 says. Because you have made the Lord your dwelling, the most high who is my refuge, no evil shall be allowed to befall you. No plague will come near your tent. He is taking this promise and that is his protection. And the Jews did that in the past. This is a Jewish amulet, and embazzled on it is Psalm 91, which you keep it for your protection is Psalm 91. However, pastor E W Jackson actually got COVID-19. When he got COVID-19. He said, so when I make these professions, what am I doing? I'm striving for the highest standard I can

reach when I fall short. In this case, it's not God's fault. It is actually I don't have enough faith. So now we have a situation where faith is actually elevated. Actually, what he'd done is actually his misread scripture verse 15 of psalm 91 says when he calls to me I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble.

I will rescue and honor him. You see the verse there. I will be with him in trouble, which means you can get in the trouble and the deception is they have misused this particular verse and that's what's happening all over the world with the prosperity gospel where my faith in God's promises is elevated above God's will.

If I have enough faith then I could do miracles. The last temptation is a temptation to self-exaltation, this quite straightforward.

The devil took him to very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory. And he said to him, all these things I will give to you, if you will fall down and worship me. Quite straightforward. The devil is now going for the kill. All right. If you look, this is when Jesus totally deprived and hungry, he is offering him splendor, not suffering. He is alone with wild animals, offering him significance and not obscurity. He is waiting for his ministry and the devil say, look, I can give you, you can become the King of the world straight away, instant results, nothing accomplished so far, Jesus has started and he said to him, power to do what you really wanted to basically rule the world. That's the appeal. But the problem is that this is a shortcut. It is a painless shortcut. He don't have to live and die on the cross. He is saying, everybody has a price and Jesus Christ also has a price, but the price is loyalty, submission, dependence and obligation to Satan, which is beyond what Jesus is willing to pay.

*All this I will give to you, if you will fall down and worship me.*

And the same thing is a deception given to the woman. You will be like God, as it were. And Jesus said to him

*Be gone Satan for it is written you shall worship the Lord your God. And only him shall you serve.*

Worship means fall down physically. So therefore what Satan's doing is trying to get him exchange a father's smile for the devil's grins, short term gain. And that is to exalt himself.

The challenge for us this morning is, you know, in the old days, when they were going to slaughter cattle, it was a noisy affair. The cattle were very unhappy being dragged in and then they will be killed. And there is a lot of low noise, lot of trouble, a lot of anguish and nowadays got modern ways of which you slaughter a cattle. There's a big ramp and the cows are made to feel contempt and comfortable. They go down a gradual shoot until they're there one by one and something squeezes that aside to make them comfortable until they actually got onto sort of conveyor belt where the feet don't even touch the ground.

And finally, the head pops up on one end, they're trapped and a gun goes here and they die. That's what temptation is like. It is so gradual, you feel so comfortable and you're not aware of the danger you're actually in.

During the French campaign of Napoleon to Russia, they were actually defeated by the Russian winter. The French troops were coming back and many of them died of the cold and how they would die was to get so tired to fall down. When they fall down, they will fall asleep. If you fall asleep, they will actually die



and there were officers would come and try to wake them up and try and say, don't fall asleep. Don't fall asleep and the men would say to them for the love of God go away and let me sleep. But if they let them sleep, there would freeze to death. And the point is, temptation is like that. Temptations come so subtly in our lives is all over the place and we are not even aware. We are comfortable and contented like the cattle being led to slaughter, or we just want to be let alone just leave it all to the Lord.

The Greek word for temptation is periasmos. Did you know that Greek word is the same word, whether it's temptation or whether it's trials? Exactly the same. I was wondering why God uses the same word for both things, because the temptation is a source that come from Satan, a trial source is from God in order to strengthen us. But the trouble is both temptation and trials, although from different sources have the ultimate same end. They authenticate or strengthen our faith in the end.

We are going to be looking at a lockdown. We look at COVID-19, thousands of cases every single day and for many of us it'll be you and Jesus at home, stripped away all your friends, stripped away all the fellowships. Some of you don't even go to cell group. Some of you have no internet. And it's a time where we are actually alone. It will be your wilderness. It will be our wilderness. This is where the reality of faith is made real. With our faith be strengthened and authenticated during this trial or would we actually fail? If you look at Genesis chapter 38 and Genesis chapter 39, there are two characters put side-by-side. One is Joseph. Every day he is being tempted by Potiphar's wife who throws herself on him to get him to commit sexual immorality. On the other hand, you've got Joseph is a slave. He's got no money. He's got no status. He's a, not even a human being. He's a slave.

Judah on the other hand has called all the money, all the wealth and what does he do? The one who is in the best position, just like Adam and Eve with garden Eden, every wish fulfilled. He actually has sex with a prostitute, which turned out to be his daughter-in-law and Joseph in the midst of neediness and poverty, no money, he did not deny God. He survived a temptation. And it is reward got thrown into prison, but after that God raised him up to be the prime minister of Egypt and through Joseph just because he kept his zipper on, didn't give in the sin. He actually saved not only Egypt but the nation of Israel from which the Messiah now comes and saves us. See temptation and the overcome temptation is so crucial. Our spiritual lives are at stake. You know, the Greeks have very interesting legends.

They're two legends they're out. One is Ulysses and the Sirens. The other one is Jason and the Argonauts. What happens is that Ulysses is one of the heroes that comes back from the Trojan Wars. And they're going to go through a particular, treacherous path of the sea, where there a bunch of what we call sirens, which are beautiful women there, but they're deadly. They'll sing a song. And if you actually listen to the song, you'll go mad and you'll crash your ship and you will basically die in the place where the sirens are lots of, lots of skeletons of men and women of sailors have crashed and Ulysses what he did was he actually made beeswax and put into the ears of all his sailors. So as they drove their ships through, they couldn't hear because they couldn't hear the sirens, the girls singing, they weren't tempted. And they will stay the course. For Ulysses he wanted to hear, so therefore what he did was got his soldiers to tie him onto the mast. And as they sang, he heard he was tempted. He struggled, and the ropes tore at his flesh, but he survived because he was torn down. See, that's one way of candling temptation. You either don't see, don't hear or you tie yourself down, but you can't really see the world in all reality.

The other Greek legend is that of the Argonauts and Jason, they went through the same channel through the sea, experienced the same temptation. The only difference was they brought along a chap called Orpheus and Orpheus had a beautiful harp and he played the song. And instead of listening to the deadly song and the music of the sirens which would have killed all the sailors, they listen to the beautiful music of Orpheus and his harp and they were able to see, the world was not obscured to them and the music guided them through.

Now that's the picture of us as Christians, Isaiah 26 verse 7 says the path of the righteous is level straight. God, you make level the way the righteous. In the path of your judgments O Lord we wait for you. Your name and remembrance are the desire of soul. See God makes our path straight through temptation, but we in our hearts, your name and remembrance are the desires of, we need to love him. We need to be so captivated by the love of God, we hear his song in our lives. Remember this beautiful old movie where we've got Jean Kelly starring in this singing in the rain, the song that we sing, like the song from Orpheus determines how we respond to the world because we are hearing the song of Jesus Christ.

Every temptation is an assault on sonship, Matthew chapter 4, if you are the son of God twice, you just saw, if you are the son of God. because Satan can't attack the father, so he has attacked the son. He has to attack all of us. He is trying to diminish our son ship. Obedience is evidence of sonship. Revelation 3:9. The Jews were supposed to be the sons of God. Jews are supposed to be the chosen people of God. And Jesus said to them,

*Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say they are Jews, but not, but they lie.*

The Jews are not sons of God. The Jews belong to, you see they are sons of Satan. That's what he's saying. So sonship is actually not genetic. Sonship is actually obedience. So Jesus is just a template. He is actually the vehicle. All of us right now.

*Since we have such a high priest who has passed through the heavens Jesus, the son of God, let us hold fast our confession, for we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in a time of need.*

Jesus' temptation is not just an example to follow. He actually is the vehicle through which we can undergo spiritual warfare. This is how we draw near. We draw near when our desires are fulfilled in him. We need to find our desires fully met in Jesus Christ. We need to have our self-esteem founded on what he has done and what his word is to us and we need to have our glory to be his glory in us. And this is how we draw near. Our old identity was how popular we are, how godly we are, how clever we are, how much we have achieved, how hardworking we have been, you know, how much have you sacrificed, how big is the church? That's our old identity. Repentance is a change in mindset. Repentance is our new identity; it is what Christ has done for us. That is the only way we overcome temptation.