

“Triple Assault!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Honor Life** - Sanctity of Human Life week.
 - 1.1.1. There have been at least **43 million babies lost** since Roe v. Wade was decided on Jan.22, 1973. [33 years]
 - 1.1.2. **Prayer:** The **laws** of our land; **babies** whose lives hang in the balance as we speak; **mothers** who have had abortions [seek & accept God's forgiveness]; that our society wouldn't pass laws to **abort our elderly!**
 - 1.1.2.1. Who defines: “Quality of Life”? - Who is ‘Wanted’? (only U)

2. TRIPLE ASSAULT! (1-13)

- 2.1. **Intro Story** – The year? 1974; The place? Trumball St., Whittier Ca.; Location? Empty lot across from my house(old lemon grove); The Event? A “**Lemon War!**”
 - 2.1.1. A 3-direction attack on Nick D. {Frank on left - Me on right. My 1st throw, way up in the air. Nicks response(just as planned) trash can lid(his shield) straight above his head. 2nd throw Frank from left. 3rd throw me from the right} [unfortunately, I hit him right in the eye]
 - 2.1.2. Most assaults come from more than 1 direction – as we have in our story this morning. A triple attack on the Son of God!
 - 2.1.2.1. But unlike Nick, Jesus was able to block all 3!!!
- 2.2. **TEMPTATION #1 – PHYSICAL TEMPTATIONS!** (1-4)
- 2.3. **Q:** How would you like to know the secret of Victory over temptations?
 - 2.3.1. **Temptation/Testing** = “is a difficult situation, a pressure that brings a reaction through which the character or commitment of a believer is demonstrated.” [The Expository Dictionary of Bible Words; pg.593]
 - 2.3.2. God permits such situations to **prove & improve** our faith.
 - 2.3.2.1. The evil is not in the situations God permits, but in responding sinfully to them.
 - 2.3.3. Temptations are **not** designed to **trap**, but to **approve** us.
 - 2.3.3.1. God even provides a back door to every temptation so we might overcome it!
 - 2.3.3.2. 1 Cor.10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will **not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will also **make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.”

- 2.4. **Q: Why did temptations/testing's come Jesus way?**
- 2.4.1. **Not to** determine His character or ability.
- 2.4.2. **Not to** give Satan a chance to defeat Him.
- 2.4.3. **But so** He could **personally experience** what we go through & so be prepared to assist us.
- 2.4.4. **So** we could **know how to overcome** the evil one by means of the Spirit of God & the Word of God.
- 2.4.4.1. The **1st Adam** was tested in a beautiful garden & failed, but the **last Adam** was victorious in a terrible wilderness/desert.¹
- 2.4.4.2. **Explain Desert** = not wilderness like we might picture it.
- 2.4.5. **Before offering a new life** to others, He proved in a personal demonstration that a **new life** was possible!
- 2.4.5.1. He showed His own **freedom from** the inadequacies & the sin which trap you & me.
- 2.4.5.2. Jesus shows freedom is possible & gives each of us hope!
- 2.5. **Q: When might temptations come?**
- 2.6. **When you're filled with the Holy Spirit!**
- 2.6.1. If I started a story, *"I was walking in the Spirit the other day when..."* You probably wouldn't expect me to say, *"and I was radically attacked spiritually!"*
- 2.6.2. Often the strongest force of temptation comes when one is **closest** to God!
- 2.6.3. The Devil even caused 1 disciple to say he didn't even know Christ.
- 2.7. **Also** we notice temptations come when we are **alone!**
- 2.7.1. I was walking in the moonlight on the property in Belize, & was just overcome with the thought: *"Here I am in a Rain Forest paradise. All alone. Completely isolated from the world. And yet even at that moment, still having to battle the temptations of my mind."*
- 2.8. **Being filled...**He was **being tested** – **Why?** To **prepare us** for the conflict. **To give us strength** proportioned to our need!
- 2.8.1. It's not a sin to be **tempted**; but it is a sin to **yield**.
- 2.9. Jesus shows us you can be filled w/the Spirit & obedient to God's will & still experience temptations/testing's/& trials.
- 2.9.1. **Jesus can identify w/you** in your temptations & can help you win **the victory!**
- 2.9.2. Heb.2:18 **"For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."**

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.

- 2.10. **THE TEST!** – To use His power to meet physical needs???????????
- 2.10.1. Fast for 40 days, now what might be the 1st test...hmmm!
- 2.10.1.1. A hard test for the 30 year old Nazarene.
- 2.10.1.2. He ate nothing for 40 days & (another biblical “understatement”) “*was hungry*” (in case you think He didn’t have human hunger pains!)
- 2.10.1.3. He was physically drained of the natural resources inherent in our bodies.
- 2.10.2. Really not “if” but “*since You are the Son of God, act like God & command these stones be made bread.*”
- 2.10.3. “It was a test to put His immediate physical needs ahead of eternal purposes.”
- 2.10.3.1. In selecting this verse He places the emphasis on “*man*”!
- 2.10.3.2. Thus, Jesus didn’t meet the testing’s of Satan in His *deity*; Jesus met each test in his human nature as a true *man*.
- 2.10.3.3. Again, in this we find *hope!*
- 2.10.3.4. If He won victory using His *divine* nature, He would have only proved that God is greater than Satan!
- 2.10.3.5. Jesus was born into our world to live as a *human* being, & to be *hungry & tired, misunderstood & hurt* as we all have been
- 2.10.3.6. He used the resources available to every believer!
- 2.11. **THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!**
- 2.11.1. Armored with *the sword of the Spirit* for His battle w/the Devil Jesus is able to parry each thrust of Satan’s *plastic child’s sword*, with the *steel-bladed sword* of Gods Word!
- 2.11.1.1. We also can picture darkness coming after light!!!
- 2.11.2. **Q: How did Jesus use the Scripture?**
- 2.11.2.1. *Not like* the Hindu prayer wheels, saying words over & over again by rote.
- 2.11.2.2. There is nothing **magical** about the words of Scripture.
- 2.11.3. Jesus is saying, “*here is a principle to live by...& I will live by it!*”
- 2.11.3.1. God’s word is given to be *lived*.
- 2.11.3.2. Here is where **Jesus** found victory, & in doing God’s word is where **we’ll** find ours also!
- 2.11.4. The **physical** is one avenue of temptation for *all of us*.
- 2.11.4.1. Some are ruled by gluttony, others by sexual appetites.
- 2.11.5. Yes we all have physical needs & it is alright to satisfy them [biblically]
- 2.11.5.1. **BUT, we are more than our bodies!!!**
- 2.11.6. Don’t let **physical needs & urges** dominate your life, choose to live by the **Word** of God. [*or to do the will of God*]
- 2.11.6.1. **Q: Which physical temptation are you struggling with?**

2.11.6.2. **Q:** What specific Scripture can you store up in your heart, that directly applies to your temptation?

2.11.6.2.1. **Ps.119:11** “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

2.11.6.3. **Q:** What have you been reminded of this morning that will aid you next time a physical temptation comes your way?

2.11.6.4. **Q:** What steps will you need to take to make sure you are living by that scripture?

2.12. **TEMPTATION #2 – TEMPTATION TO DO GOOD!** (5-8)

2.13. Now, an attack from *another direction!*

2.14. **THE TEST!**

2.14.1. To seek the power of a world ruler. (This would match *popular expectations* about the Messiah)

2.14.2. Satan asked for the worship that belongs only to God, offering all the world’s kingdoms in return.

2.14.2.1. It was an opportunity for Jesus to **escape the cross!**

2.14.3. Authority over all kingdoms of this world **IS** Jesus’ destiny!

2.14.3.1. **Ps.2:7,8** “The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You **The nations** for Your inheritance, And **the ends of the earth** for Your possession.”

2.14.4. Certainly what God has planned for Jesus cannot be, in itself, a **bad** thing – or **worldly**.

2.14.4.1. It would have been a **good** thing for our planet for Jesus to jump in & rule the nations.

2.14.4.2. There wouldn’t be wars & killings if Jesus was in charge. No sickness or cancer. No crime, or discrimination, or injustice!

2.14.5. So this was a “**good**” temptation...or **better yet**, a temptation to do good...but not accept God’s “**best**”!

2.14.5.1. Some of the most powerful temptations are those that involve **good** things!

2.15. **All will be yours?** – But in Jesus Christ we already have **all things!**

2.15.1. **1 Cor.3:21-23** “Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—**all are yours**. And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

2.16. **THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!**

2.16.1. Don’t fall for the **Good**; determine to do **God’s Will** alone!

- 2.16.2. Choosing God's will was costly for Jesus. It cost Him His life, but His reward? "The nations" (*folks from all nations, tribes, peoples, & tongues*)!
- 2.16.3. Like Jesus, determine to do the **right thing**, determining that in every situation you will **worship** God, & Him only you will serve!
- 2.17. **TEMPTATION #3 – TEMPTATION TO DOUBT GOD!** (9-13)
- 2.18. This "if" implies doubt.
- 2.19. **THE TEST!**
- 2.19.1. Perform a *dazzling miracle* at the Temple site, as many people are anxiously awaiting a Messiah who would perform *spectacular signs*.
- 2.19.1.1. He tells Jesus to jump, & backs it with an "edited" quotation from Psalm 91:11,12.
- 2.19.2. **How long** will you wait until you begin to wonder, "**Did God really lead me here, or was it my imagination?**"
- 2.19.3. **How long** before you yearn for **some proof** that God has been directing you & is still w/you?
- 2.19.4. The passage implies, "Why not settle it!" – Prove to yourself the relationship you claim, once & for all!
- 2.19.4.1. Look at the passage he quoted. Yes it's from Deut.6:16 (*read*) but it looks back even farther to Ex.17:7 (*read*).
- 2.19.4.2. *They were given demonstration after demonstration of God's power.* They run out of water & cry again, "Is the Lord among us or not?"
- 2.19.4.3. In questioning God's presence & His love, they "*put God to the test!*"
- 2.19.5. Come on Jesus, make God prove Himself! – Jesus wouldn't.
- 2.20. **THE VICTORY PRINCIPLE!**
- 2.20.1. Relationship with God must always **rest on faith, rest on His Faithfulness, & on Confidence** in God's **Trustworthiness**.
- 2.20.2. How quick you & I are, when troubles & pressures come, to begin to **doubt God & to question His love!**
- 2.20.2.1. *Is God still here? Did I make a mistake?*
- 2.20.3. When we are under these pressures we need to remember the **principles** that Jesus Himself applied. We don't need proof. We can trust God. We are not to test Him.
- 2.21. Jesus **did not** use His divine powers to **win the victory**; He used the **same spiritual weapons** that any of us can use, if we will **yield to him!**