

## Jesus' Second Temptation

The Advent season is a time when we focus on the incarnation. Jesus took on human flesh. He became one of us. This year as we move through Advent we are focusing on one aspect of Jesus' incarnation: His experience of being tempted. In focusing on Jesus' temptations we are seeking to grow in our love and adoration for Jesus and in our confidence that he can help us in the temptations that we face. Today, we are looking at Jesus' second temptation.

### Read Matthew 4:1-7

1. What are the details of the second temptation? What does the devil suggest? And how does he go about it?
2. Jesus really was tempted by what the devil suggests to him. What appeal might this temptation have held for Jesus?
3. In Jesus' reply to the devil he quotes from Deuteronomy 6:16, which looks back to Exodus 17:1-7 (read those passages). When Moses gives the command to not put God to the test in Deuteronomy 6:16, he is referring to the Exodus 17 account. How did the children of Israel test God in Exodus 17? Why was this testing God?
4. In what way would Jesus have been putting God to the test by throwing himself off of the temple?
5. Like Jesus, we are tempted at times to want to make God "prove it." We want Him to prove something that He has already said. What are some ways that you've faced this temptation?

Brian said:

**We need a comprehensive understanding of Scripture to battle temptation.** The devil is a deceiver. And he is so subtle in his deceptions. He throws his temptation “pitch” at us to look so close to the truth that we are tempted to believe it. That’s what he does with Jesus. He comes to him WITH Scripture. But Jesus has this comprehensive understanding of Scripture and He doesn’t allow the devil to rip Psalm 91 out of context to lead him astray. We need this comprehensive understanding of Scripture as well.

6. How do we get to a place where we have a comprehensive understanding of Scripture?

Brian said:

It doesn’t have to all be on you to have this comprehensive understanding of Scripture. You can lean into the body of Christ for this. If you will surround yourself with biblical community and walk in humility with them, the body of Christ can help you have a broader understanding of Scripture. Colossians 3:16 says: “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another . . .*” The “you” there is plural. This is a command to the church to *let the word of Christ richly dwell* within us. As the body of Christ we are to have this comprehensive understanding of Scripture. And so none of us has to feel like it is all up to us. Rather we can pursue living in true biblical community that can help us have the understanding of Scripture that we need.

7. In what ways could you lean into the body of Christ such that it helps you have an understanding of Scripture that is helping you in your battle against temptation?
8. What is one step that you could take to have a deeper experience with God’s word that would truly help you in your battle with temptation?