**Don't Take the Devil's Bait**

(Matthew 4:3-4 KJV)

*1Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. 3And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4But 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.*

I

find it quite intriguing to read that the Spirit of God led the Son of God into the desert place, a wasteland, a barren region, a desolate unattractive geographic called the wilderness—to face Satan's temptations. It is also noteworthy that these temptations took place immediately after Jesus' baptism and before He began His public and profound ministry.

Ironically just prior to the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry, Satan engaged Christ in a fierce, furious, ferocious, vicious and violent battle. It is the great battle we call the temptation of Christ. This battle proved the holy character of Christ and demonstrated that Satan was not going to stop Christ's ministry, though he tried again and again to stop His ministry.

Why was it so important for Jesus to face these temptations from Satan? What role did the forty days of fasting have in the temptations? What was the issue that had to be settled in the temptations? And how do His temptations affect us today? One great saint of God once commented that he found that temptation and testing seem to come just before any great blessing and soon after. The Devil wants to spoil the blessing and God allows it, as he wants to keep us on our toes!

The Bait of Satan’ imprisons countless Christians, because they don’t see the bait. Understanding how the devil works can give us the upper hand against him and ultimately protect us from being apprehended by him.

Let me ask you a question—what are the two best effective whys to catch a mouse? Yes you got it right you'll need a mousetrap and some cheese. Now the cheese will bait him if you want to catch him. But cheese is not the only thing used as bait to catch a mouse. I've found that peanut butter worked better than any bait you'll ever find in the market place.

This whole setup is called a "TRAP" whereby you're determined to catch, kill and depose of that which has given you the oxymoron's of life! So, you put your bait on the trap and the mouse (enemy) comes up to take the bait, then all of a sudden POW! The mouse is now caught. Folks! The devil sets traps for us like he tried to setup a trap for Jesus. He places your favorite thing as the bait on the trap. But you have to be aware that there's a trap being set for you—so whenever you see the trap setup specifically for you—I won't you to remember, “**Don’t Take the Devil's Bait**”.

**Here's an illustration**:

A minister once became very annoyed with his wife for always coming back with a new dress each time she went out shopping. He told her she must be more concerned about the finances and resist any more purchases. She said it was very difficult as the Devil was always tempting her. Her husband replied You must say to the Devil next time, Get thee behind me Satan'. The next week she came back from shopping with yet another new dress. Her husband was furious! Didn't you tell the Devil to get behind you as I said? His wife replied, I did, but when he went behind me he whispered in my ear, It looks just as good from the back as it did from the front'.

Now before a king can rule others, he must prove that he can rule himself. This is why King Saul lost his kingship—he was unable to control himself and obey God. So, this chapter shows the King Jesus meeting His enemy, "*the prince of this world*" (John 14:30), and defeating him hands down. "**Don't Take the Devil's Bait**"!