

Thy Kingdom Come: Two Kingdoms

Reflect

1. Do you think there is a clear 'right' and a clear 'wrong' in this life?
2. Have you ever thought about the analogy where there is an angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other shoulder? Do you ever feel like this when choosing to do or not do something?
3. Lots of media in this world portrays the devil as a red guy with a giant torch. Do you think the devil is real? If so, do you think this is who the devil actually is?

Read Your Bible

- Ephesians 6:10-17
- Matthew 4:1-11

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What does Scripture say it means to put on the full armor of God?
2. How would you define the word 'temptation'?
3. Have you ever been tempted before? Have you ever tempted someone else before? What are some examples?
4. Do you think temptation itself is a sin? Was Jesus tempted? (Read Hebrews 4:15)
5. How did Jesus respond whenever the devil tempted Him?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is written..."? What do you think He was referring to?
7. How can we fight off the temptations that come our way? What has God given us to win this battle?

Conclusion

Temptation in this world is inevitable. We sometimes view Satan as this man who is *obvious* in his evil works, but we see in this Scripture that Satan is very *sneaky* in his approach. He does not always come with a red flag and can easily present himself in a way that doesn't seem so bad. Think about it, he used the Bible to make all his arguments. But Jesus knew that his motives were evil and he used the Bible to twist God's words. Just as a soldier would never fight a battle without their armor, we cannot expect to follow Jesus and successfully fight temptation without wearing our spiritual armor. Jesus calls us to be on guard for when temptation comes, remembering that God never tempts us, but all temptation that leads to sin is from Satan. And our armor is God's Word. So, the next time you find yourself tempted, you can pull out your Bible and say, "It is written..."

Pray

Holy God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You clothe us in righteousness, and nothing could ever pluck us from Your hand. Protect us, O Lord, when temptation comes our way. For You do not cause temptation and the evil it produces but deliver us from it. May You strengthen us by the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may fix our eyes on Jesus Christ and fight every battle Satan brings with Your Word You have given us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.