

IN THE GARDEN AND IN THE WILDERNESS

(The Battle of Champions) By Pastor Fred Mendoza

Oct 07, 2018

Introduction:

1. The two most decisive battles in human history
2. The two champions in these decisive battles

Texts: 1 Cor. 15:45-49; 1 John 5:15-20

1. The two champions are the **devil** and **Christ** whose battlegrounds were a garden and a wilderness.
2. Today, what are the battlegrounds of the devil and Christ? The **hearts** and the **minds** of people.
3. Temptation to sin is a **challenge** we will face throughout our earthly life; to overcome temptation is critically important for our physical and spiritual **survival**.
4. From Adam's temptation and Jesus's temptation, we will delve deeply into:

A. The ANATOMY of Temptation

1. An analysis of Adam's temptation in the Garden (Gen. 3:1-6)
2. An analysis of Jesus's temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11)

B. The ANTIDOTE to Temptation

1. Insights from Adam's fall into temptation (Gen. 3:1-6)
2. Insights from Jesus' victory over temptation (Matt. 4:1-11)

Reflection/practical application:

TABLETALK STARTERS

(For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

1. Adam being the Federal Head of the Fallen Human Race, in Adam we are defeated sinners; but Jesus being the Federal Head of the New Human Race, in Christ we are victors.
 - a. How do you get into Christ from Adam (John 15:1, 4; Rom. 11:22)?
 - b. What shows that you are really in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 3:7-9)?
 - c. What assures us of victory over temptation (1 Cor. 10:12-13; Heb. 2:18)?
2. From Adam's fall into temptation (Gen. 3:1-6), and from Jesus' victory over temptation (Matt. 4:1-11),
 - a. What role does the use of our gift of free will or free choice play in our defeat or victory over temptation?
 - b. Following Jesus' example in Gethsemane, how should we use or exercise our free will to overcome temptation (Matt. 26:39, 42)?
3. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Are you facing any life situation that requires the surrender of your will to God's will to defeat temptation? What are you going to do about it?