





# TEMPTED

MATTHEW 4:1-11

# THE CHRISTIAN AND TEMPTATION

- God allows us to be tempted – James 1:13;  
1 Corinthians 10:13
- The tempter is real – Job 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8;  
2 Corinthians 2:11
- Jesus can truly sympathize with us –  
Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16
- There is always more at stake than what we  
might think.

# CONTEXT

- The temptations of Jesus take place after His baptism, and God's words of acknowledgment and approval – **Matthew 3:13-17**
- It was the Father's will that Jesus' ministry be prefaced by a victory over Satan in immense temptation – **Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12**
- Jesus had been intensely focused on the Father's will, fasting for 40 days – **Matthew 4:2**



# THE **FIRST** TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:3-4

## Purpose

- *“If you are the Son of God”*
- Combining a need with the reality of Jesus’ ability to miraculously provide.
- He did not come to be served – **Mark 10:45; John 2:4, 11**
- **Satan wants us to forget our purpose and validate our venturing away from it.**

# THE FIRST TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:3-4

## Submission

- Hunger – a legitimate need which seems reasonable to fulfill. (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:12-13)
- Is He in absolute submission to God? – Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:1-3
- Deuteronomy 8:3 – “that is, by every means which God may appoint.” (McGarvey, J.W.)
- Satan wants us to fail to see the true heart of submission to God.

# THE **FIRST** TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:3-4

## Trust

- *“If you are the Son of God”* – Why are you hungry? Won’t He take care of you? Does He desire your well-being?
- God desires our well-being, but we must trust He truly knows it better than we do.
- **Matthew 4:4** – God, His word, and the spiritual life He offers is sufficient. (cf. **Daniel 3:17-18**)
- **Satan wants us to think we know better, and we can handle it on our own.**

# THE **FIRST** TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:3-4

Jesus' reply – **Deuteronomy 8:1-18**



# THE SECOND TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:5-7

The 1<sup>st</sup> questioned His trust, the 2<sup>nd</sup> sought to exploit it.

- Take heed lest you fall – 1 Corinthians 10:12
- True faith does not create its own problems, but fully relies on God when they arise – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

# THE SECOND TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:5-7

## Satan's Quotation – Psalm 91:11-12

- *“To keep you in all your ways”* (Psalm 91:11b)
- Protection for those abiding in God's presence:
  - (vv. 1-2) – abiding in God's presence, trusting.
  - (vv. 3-8) – protection described.
  - (vv. 9-13) – reason: you have made the Lord your dwelling place.
  - (vv. 14-16) – he has loved God.
- Text without a context is a pretext – 2 Peter 3:16

# THE SECOND TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:5-7

## Jesus' Reply – Deuteronomy 6:16

- Scripture itself explains and guards the promises and commands of God that it provides.
  - (v. 3) – observe the law and it will be well.
  - (vv. 10-15) – remember it is from God – full dependence and fidelity.
  - (vv. 16-19) – do not tempt (test) Him, but trust and obey. (Massah – Exodus 17:7)
- Satan wants us to presumptuously extend God's word and goodness beyond its self-defined limits.

# THE THIRD TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:8-11

- Jesus came into the world – John 8:23  
(cf. 1 John 2:16; Romans 8:3)
- He came into the world to establish a kingdom not of this world, but of eternal spiritual truth – John 18:36-37
- Purpose, priority, and position are again at stake in the greatest test yet.
  - Jesus' brothers – John 7:2-5
  - Jesus – Luke 2:49; Matthew 4:17; Hebrews 12:2; John 17:5



# THE THIRD TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:8-11

## Jesus' Reply – Deuteronomy 6:13

- Context – (vv. 10-15) – remember who gave it and give Him your all in reverent service.
- Satan – Luke 4:6-7 (cf. Job 1:12; 2:6)
  - Would not the One who allowed Satan such control be able to offer something greater?
  - Would not the fact of allowing Satan control exhibit the lacking value of the object(s) put in his control?
  - Would not these truths lend to the demand to withhold such reverent worship from him and give it to the One truly deserving?

# THE **THIRD** TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:8-11

- A way to the crown without the cross? – impossible – **Philippians 2:8-11**
- Satan wants us to believe what he offers is the greatest so that we might turn our worship and service to him. (cf. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:26**)
- Aftermath – **Matthew 4:11, 17; James 4:7**

# APPLICATIONS

- Beware of your vulnerabilities.
- Beware of your strengths.
- Be watchful at all points of your life – highs, lows, in between.
- Know God's word.
- Always realize true fulfillment comes with resisting Satan and submitting to God.
- Have faith that temptation can always be resisted by God's grace and look to Jesus for help.





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