



MATTHEW

Messiah Has Come

4:1-11

Messiah's Temptation

Purpose

Matthew's gospel was written to provide clarity and stability for the early church concerning the person of Jesus as Israel's **Messiah** and as **Head of the Church**.

Q1

What does this teach me about Jesus as Messiah?

Q2

What does this teach me about Jesus as Head of the Church?

Last Week's Principle

The people of God need to choose to have a change of mind (repent), identify themselves with, and set themselves apart (consecrate) for the King and his coming Kingdom.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Matthew 4:1-11

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Matthew 4:1-11

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

CONTEXT

Matthew 3:15-16

15 But Jesus answered him,

“Let it be so now,

for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

Then he consented.

16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said,

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 4:1 (Jesus was led by the Spirit)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Led by the Spirit

- *The Spirit (He just received) was active in directing Jesus.*
- *Jesus was active in following the Spirit.*

Matthew 4:1 (Jesus was led by the Spirit)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit **into the wilderness** to be tempted by the devil.

into the wilderness

- Jesus was *isolated from physical resources*

- Jesus was *removed from the emotional support of people*

Matthew 4:1 (Jesus was led by the Spirit)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

*Genesis 3:6. . .when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [physical]
and that it was a delight to the eyes [emotional]
and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise [spiritual]*

to be tempted

- Temptation is an exchange of ideas with the goal of moving a person from dependence on God to dependence on self to meet real needs.

Matthew 4:1 (Jesus was led by the Spirit)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted **by the devil.**

James 1:13. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

by the devil

- Although Jesus was led by the Spirit for the purpose of being tempted, the Spirit was not the agent doing the temptation.

Matthew 4:1 (Jesus was led by the Spirit)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Important Questions

- *Did Satan know who Jesus was?*
- *Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted?*

Matthew 4:2 (Jesus was in need)

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² And after fasting forty days and forty nights,
he was hungry.

after fasting...he was hungry

- Jesus' hunger spanned more than the physical realm. He was also hungry emotionally and spiritually.

Matthew 4:3 (Satan used Jesus' hunger to tempt him)

³ And the tempter came and ***said to him***,

“If you are the Son of God,

command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

Matthew 4:3 (Satan used Jesus' hunger to tempt him)

³ And the tempter came and ***said to him***,

“If you are the Son of God,

command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

command these stones to become loaves of bread

- Satan was tempting Jesus through His lack of physical needs to cast off His dependence on the Father and to take care of it himself.

Matthew 4:4 (Jesus relied on God and His Word)

³ And the tempter came and ***said to him***,
“If you are the Son of God,
command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But ***he answered***,
“It is written,
“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

man shall not live by bread alone...

- *There is something deeper than physical needs that must be the anchor of dependence...*

Matthew 4:4 (Jesus relied on God and His Word)

³ And the tempter came and ***said to him***,
“If you are the Son of God,
command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

⁴ But ***he answered***,
“It is written,
“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

man...lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

- Recall, the mouth of God just spoke 40 days prior to this,
“This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.”

Section Summary

Satan accused God of not meeting Jesus' PHYSICAL need of hunger and then offered a way Jesus could get that need met on his own terms without depending on the Father.

This put Jesus in a position of either abandoning His dependence on God or clinging to Him and what He had said.

Matthew 4:5 (Satan used Jesus' need for love to tempt him)

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city
and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and **said to him**,

“If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down, for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Matthew 4:5 (Satan used Jesus' need for love to tempt him)

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city
and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and **said to him**,

“If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down, for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

Matthew 4:7 (Jesus relied on God and His Word)

⁷ Jesus *said to him*,

“Again it is written,

‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ “

Section Summary

Satan accused God of not meeting Jesus' EMOTIONAL need of love and then offered a way Jesus could get that need met on his own terms by forcing the Father's hand to prove it.

This put Jesus in a position of either abandoning His dependence on God or clinging to Him and what He had said.

Matthew 4:9 (Satan used Jesus' need for significance to tempt him)

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹ And he **said to him**,

“All these I will give you,
if you will fall down and worship me.”

...all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

- Satan knows the Jesus is the Son of God, the Jewish Messiah, who has come to take back the Kingdom and to rule over it! This was well-established prophecy.

Matthew 4:9 (Satan used Jesus' need for significance to tempt him)

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹ And he **said to him**,

“All these I will give you,
if you will fall down and worship me.”

All these I will give you

- *Satan had rulership over these kingdoms by stealing it from Adam, way back in the garden of Eden. He was and still is the ruler of this world.*

Matthew 4:9 (Satan used Jesus' need for significance to tempt him)

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹ And he ***said to him***,

“All these I will give you,
if you will fall down and worship me.”

fall down and worship me

- Satan was offering Jesus an *ALTERNATIVE MEANS* by which he could fulfill his legitimate need of significance and his destiny to be ruler over all the earth.

Matthew 4:10 (Jesus relied on God and His Word)

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹ And he ***said to him***,

“All these I will give you,
if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then ***Jesus said to him***,

“Be gone, Satan!

For it is written, “

‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’ ”

Section Summary

Satan accused God of not meeting Jesus' SPIRITUAL need of significance and then offered a way Jesus could get that need met on his own terms without depending on the Father.

This put Jesus in a position of either abandoning His dependence on God or clinging to Him and what He had said.

Satan's Tactic

Satan attempts to **C.O.R.N.E.R.** us into making a decision to cast God aside and depend on self to meet our personal needs.

Context: *He comes to us in a state of unmet needs.*

Object: *He presents an object to draw our attention away from God.*

Reward: *He offers a reward to meet our deep need(s).*

Negate & **E**vade: *He presents a way the reward can be gained by negating and evading God's design.*

Response: *He presses for a response of action.*

Satan's Tactic

	EVE	JESUS	JESUS	JESUS
CONTEXT	Together & Secure	Physically Hungry	Emotionally Lonely	Spiritually Insignificant
OBJECT	Forbidden Fruit	Stones/Bread	Temple Mount	Kingdoms of the World
REWARD	Be like God	Satisfied Physically	Experience Love	King over the world
NEGATE & EVADE	Take a bite	Misuse your position	Put God to the test	Bow down to Satan
RESPONSE	Took the bite/bait	Resisted and Depended	Resisted and Depended	Resisted and Depended

Response to Satan's Tactic

EVE	JESUS	YOU
Engaged Satan alone	Engaged Satan by walking in the Spirit	?
Misquoted God's Word	Quoted God's Word accurately	?
Considered Satan's Offer	Remained dependent on the Father	?
Changed allegiance to Satan	Maintained righteousness to God	?

Principle

Satan attacks God's children in their most vulnerable times by offering a way to meet their unmet needs independent of God.

By pressing into God and His Word, His children can stand against Satan's attacks regardless of their circumstances.

Q1

What does this teach me about Jesus as Messiah?

Principle

Satan attacks God's children in their most vulnerable times by offering a way to meet their unmet needs independent of God.

By pressing into God and His Word, His children can stand against Satan's attacks regardless of their circumstances.

Q2

What does this teach me about Jesus as Head of the Church?

Principle

Satan attacks God's children in their most vulnerable times by offering a way to meet their unmet needs independent of God.

By pressing into God and His Word, His children can stand against Satan's attacks regardless of their circumstances.

Other Elder Input...

Next Week

Matthew 4:12-25