



“The Temptation and Triumph of Jesus”

Matthew 4:1-11

The Preparation of the King

Introduction: Temptation is coming.

Matthew 4:1-11 – *“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 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, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’” Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’” Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus *said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”*

I. Temptation v. Test (v. 1)

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

James 1:13-15 – *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. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

Jesus, the last Adam, had to be tested.

1 Cor. 15:45 – *Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

Compare and Contrast the temptation of the 1st Adam v. the Last Adam

	1st Adam	Last Adam
Location	Lush; Pristine Garden	Desolate Judean wilderness
Condition	Bellies Full	Profound Hunger
Companionship	Mutual Support	Alone/Isolated

Different tests but same dog; same tricks (Gen. 3:1; 4:3). Attacks the trustworthiness of God’s word.

II. Temptation to Provide for Ourselves (vv. 2-4)

And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

“IF you are a child of God, you should have _____.”

“It is written...” = reference to sacred Scripture.

III. Temptation to Protect Ourselves (vv. 5-7)

*Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 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, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'"*

"The analogy of faith" = Scripture interprets Scripture (1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

IV. Temptation to Praise Ourselves (vv. 8-11)

*Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus *said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" Then the devil *left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.*

Worship of the creature instead of the Creator has always been the challenge. (Rom. 1:24:25)

We worship what we serve. Worship and service go hand in hand.

Conclusion

Temptation: to provide for ourselves. Response: *look to Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides all our needs for life in godliness.*

Temptation: to protect ourselves. Response: *look to Jehovah Nissi, the Lord our banner who is our rallying point.*

Temptation: to praise ourselves. Response: *look to the Lord Jesus Christ, who while having equal status with God didn't cling to it but instead emptied Himself. (Phil. 2:5-11)*

We overcome temptation the same way that Jesus did. Trusting in our heavenly Father, clinging to His promises.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. In your own words how would you describe the difference between a temptation and a test?
2. Discuss a time in your life when God's will came into question because your physical needs weren't being met.
3. Have you or someone you know ever put God in a situation to force Him to do a miracle?
4. What are some other ways we continue to worship the creature rather than the Creator in our world today?
5. Which of the temptations do you find yourself being tempted by most?