

Matthew 4

Jesus

- **Isaiah saw the Lord enthroned 700bc**

Isaiah 6:1 ... I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Who did Isaiah see...?

John 12:41 These things Isaiah said when he saw **[Jesus] glory and spoke of Him.**

- **700 years later** Jesus born in Bethlehem
- **30 years later** Jesus was baptized...

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus came to take away the sin

...30 [John speaking] ...This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for **He was before me.**'

- John born **6 months before** Jesus said **Jesus came before him?**

Micah 5:2 "[From Bethlehem will come...] The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose **goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.**"

- **Jesus always has been/Jesus has never has not been**

1. Abraham saw Jesus 1300 years later...
2. Isaiah saw Jesus 700 years later...
3. **John the Baptist saw Jesus...**

- **John knew who he was baptizing**...the Eternal One...the Son of God

...32b... [John speaking] [God...] sent me to baptize with water [and] said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the **Holy Spirit.**'³⁴ And I have seen and testified **that this is the Son of God.**"

- **Jesus the Son of God:** God with us

John 1:14 ...the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us**

Jesus now begins His 3-year public ministry/walk to the cross
Tested by the Devil...

I. Testing of the King

¹ [After being baptized...] Jesus was **led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil.**

Mark 1:12 Immediately the **Spirit drove Him** into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels

ministered to Him [later].

- **Chronology**

1. Jesus baptized/Spirit descends on Him
2. Spirit immediately *drives Him* into wilderness...to be lit. **tested by Satan**

God allows this “testing” to prove that [Jesus] could not be broken [JV McGee]

After the mountaintop experience of Baptism/Father proclaiming from Heaven, “This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased”, the Holy Spirit violently pulls/extracts Jesus from the lovely scene at the Jordan...driving Him south into the desert to be tempted by the devil during/after 40 days of fasting [NJC]

- **I don’t have a peace about that hard thing God wants?** And, what?

Hebrews 2:10 ...it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus] **perfect through sufferings.**

Hebrews 5:8 ... though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience **by the things which He suffered...**18 For in that **He Himself has suffered, being tempted,** He is able to aid those who are tempted. Jesus battled Satan as a man

1 John 2:15 ^[3 Types] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

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| 1. Lust of the Flesh | Eve saw that forbidden fruit looked tastier | I want it anyway |
| 2. Lust of the Eyes | Eve saw that it was pleasant to the eyes | I want it now |
| 3. Pride of Life | Eve believed it would make her wise | I deserve it |

- **Spirit drives Jesus out to suffer temptation...** He will be stronger afterward

2 And when [Jesus] had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward **He was hungry.**

1 Peter 5:8 ... your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he may devour.**

- Our ferocious enemy **studies us** waiting for precisely the right moment...
- 40 days with no food Jesus is hungry and **Satan begins...**

Lust of the Flesh

...saw the tree was good for food. Whatever your body tells you it wants...do that

3 Now when the tempter came to [Jesus] Satan said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But [Jesus] answered and said, “It is written, **‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’**”

Lit. Since you are the Son of God...prove it

- **Temptation** Satisfaction apart from God
- **Scene** Wilderness/dangerously hungry
- **Predicament** Natural desire to eat/Supernatural ability to turn rock to bread

Satan appeals to a legitimate desire within Jesus the man; i.e. the desire to eat/survive
Satan suggests that Jesus fulfill this legitimate desire in an illegitimate way. [Guzik]

- Turn the rocks into bread without Father's blessing...**after all your hungry**

Satan's principal aim...is to bring **our appetites** and **his temptations** together; to get our souls into a dry, seared state, and then to strike the match and make them burn. [Spurgeon]

- When desire meets opportunity, sin is conceived leads separation from God

James 1:4 ...each one is tempted when he is **drawn away by his own desires** and enticed. 15 Then, when **desire has conceived**, it gives **birth to sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth death**.

- Satisfy yourself apart from God's will...turn the stones into bread

It is written...Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God

- **Jesus:** My sustenance is to do the will of My Father

Struggle for us? Legitimate Physical Desires vs. Satan's Perverted Substitute

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| 1. Natural Thirst-Hunger | Drunkenness/Gluttony |
| 2. Natural Sexual Desire | Sex outside marriage |
| 3. Natural Desire to Self-protect | Anger/Unforgiveness |

Jesus uses Deuteronomy 8:3 to shut the devil down
What Scripture would we choose when tempted by Flesh?

- Drunkenness/Gluttony?

Proverbs 23:21 ...the drunkard and the glutton will **come to poverty**

- Sexual Sin?

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue **righteousness, faith, love, peace...**

- Anger?

James 1:20 ...the wrath of man **does not produce the righteousness of God.**

Temptation: Act apart from the Father's will
Jesus never did a miracle for His own benefit or one that the Father did not initiate

John 5:19 ... the Son can do **nothing of Himself**, but what He **sees the Father do**; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner..."

- Deviating from the Father's plan is called **sin**
- If Jesus turned the rocks to Wonder Bread...

Every human ever born would be eternally damned

John 4:32 ... "I have **food to eat of which you do not know.**" 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**"

SUMMARY Lust of the Flesh Lie? There is fulfillment apart from God that He does not want you do have. **Truth:** It is written...My sustenance is to do the will of God as per the Word of God. I choose true satisfaction found in/through My Creator. Later as led by the Father Jesus would do a bread miracle feeding thousand [not Himself]

Pride

Tree able to make one wise...Whatever exalts you in the eyes of others...do that
Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil/Tree of Self-Awareness/Tree of all about you

5 Then the **devil took Him** up into the holy city, 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 shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

- **Scene:** Satan "takes" Jesus to highest part of the Temple
- **Temptation:** Prove how great you are...**Jump and let the angels catch you**

NEWSFLASH: God will not do tricks for the arrogant

Luke 23:8 [Herod] had desired for a long time to see [Jesus], because he had heard many things about Him, and he **hoped to see some miracle done by Him.**

"The devil's suggestion was of an **artificially created crisis**, not of trusting God in the situations which result from obedient service." [France]

Mark 16:17 ...these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will **take up serpents;** and if they drink anything deadly, it will **by no means hurt them**

Q. Does this mean we start swinging around a bunch of poisonous snakes?

NOTE: Snake handlers dying like flies does not glorify God. Embarrassment

- **Taking Promises** out of context for our purposes then blaming God

Psalms 91:10 [Messiah] No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, **to keep you in all your ways.** 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

- Satan left out "to keep you in all your ways" until the way led to the cross

"Satan borrowed our Lord's weapon, and said, "It is written `'; but he did not use the sword

lawfully. It was not in the nature of the false fiend to quote correctly. He left out the necessary words, 'in all thy ways': thus, he made the promise say what in truth it never suggested." [Spurgeon]

- Never intended to prove anything to Satan/tempt God. That was not the way of Jesus

Satan's Apostles [Cults/Religion/Politicians, etc.] **also quote Scripture...**

2 Corinthians 2:13 ...such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose **end will be according to their works.**

- **Let your Father send angels to catch you...He said He would**

Temptation: Treat God as a cosmic Santa Clause/Genie to do our will

7 Jesus said to him, "**It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'**" [Deuteronomy 6:16]

- **It is written again...** You shall not tempt the LORD your God

SUMMARY Pride of Life: Lie? You can be like God. Using God for your will. Health/Wealth, Blab/Grab. Religions and Cults gathering converts to make money and build their empires.
Truth: Pride comes before the fall

Lust of the Eyes

Pleasant to the Eyes...Whatever you see/want/desire ...take it you deserve it

8 Again, the **devil took Him** up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things **I will give You** if You will fall down and worship me."

- **Scene:** Transported to high mountain/shown every kingdom
- **Temptation:** Bypass suffering and grab the prize now

Daniel 2:44 [Jesus promised Kingdom] ... the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... [Messiah] shall break in pieces and consume all [other] kingdoms, **and it shall stand forever.** [Plan included the cross first]

I will give them to you without going to the cross...Just worship me

- God desires us to be content and thankful leading to joy and peace
- Satan wants us to be continually discontent with our circumstance...then he has us

Covetousness breeds misery. The sight of houses better than our own, of clothes beyond our means, of jewels costlier than we may wear, of rare curiosities beyond our reach, these hatch the viper brood of **covetous thoughts**; vexing the poor who would be rich; tormenting the rich who would be richer [Anonymous]

Take it now and you will be happy. Quick Fix

Take the easy way/shortcuts and their will be no consequences

1. Fornication	Promise of fun	Shame/Disrespect
2. Abortion	Promise of freedom	Regret/Depression
3. Adultery	Promise of excitement	Broken Family
4. Divorce	Promise new beginning	Taking your Baggage w/you
5. Unforgiveness	Promise of power	Lifelong Misery. Drinking poison
6. Laziness	Promise of free time	Generational Welfare
7. Psychotropics	Promise of happiness	Addiction/Suicide
8. Riches/Stuff	Promise of satisfaction	Misery. Risk of losing your soul...

Matthew 16:26 ...what profit is it to a man if he **gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 12:19 [Godless rich man hoarding wealth] And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, '**Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;** then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

Bypass the Cross and get the world anyway...Just worship me

10 Then Jesus said to him, "**Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**"

- **Can't have our cake and eat it too:** Worship God of Self but not both

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**"

- What Scriptures would we choose when tempted by greed?

Genesis 15:1 ... the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, **your exceedingly great reward.**"

SUMMARY Lust of the Eyes. Lie? God does not want your best but is holding out. Whatever you see/want take it because you deserve it and there will be no consequences. Bypass the pain, work and the will of God. **Truth:** Those that that covet stuff above God/others are already bowing to the devil

- **Lust of the Flesh, Pride of Life, Lust of the Eyes...**

Jesus used Scripture to battle Satan's temptation, not some elaborate spiritual power inaccessible to us. Jesus fought this battle as fully man, and He drew on no "special resources" unavailable to us. "Out flashed the sword of the Spirit: our Lord will fight with no other weapon. He could have spoken new revelations, but chose to say, '**It is written.**'" [Spurgeon]

"Away with you, Satan!

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

- Devil left/Angel's came/God provided in **His time/His way**

Luke 4:13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him **until an opportune time.**

- **Same temptation:** Bypass the cross...

Matthew 16:23 [Peter tells Jesus he does not have to die, Jesus] ...turned and said to Peter, **"Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."**

- Jesus was stronger after suffering

Luke 4:14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

- **We will be stronger after suffering...**

"He who, through the grace of God, resists and overcomes temptation, is **always bettered by it.** This is one of the wonders of God's grace, that those very things which are designed for our utter ruin he makes the instruments of our greatest good. Thus, Satan is ever duped by his [own schemes] [Clarke]

Matthew 4:11 Then the **devil left** Him, and behold, **angels came** and ministered to Him.

- **Devil left/Angels came...**

Luke 4:14 Then Jesus returned in the **power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all... **18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,** Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

After overcoming temptation Jesus returns from Desert in Power...

- **Taught in their Synagogues:** Given Scripture read concerning Messiah **Is. 61:1-2**

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| 1. Spirit of Lord is upon Me. | I came to... |
| 2. Preach Gospel to poor | In spirit in context |
| 3. Heal brokenhearted | Crushed/wrecked |
| 4. Proclaim Freedom | Those bound by sin |
| 5. Cause blind to see | Physically/Spiritually |
| 6. Free those oppressed | Bruised/Shattered |
| 7. Proclaim acceptable yr. of Lord: | Jewish Year of Jubilee/slaves set free |

Luke 4:20 [Continued] Then He **closed the book,** and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, **"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**

Paraphrase: The Messiah is here and I am He

II. Jesus Ministry Begins

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who **sat in darkness have seen a great light,** And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

John 1:9 [Jesus is] ...the **true Light** which gives light to every man coming into the world.

- **Jesus is the Light given to every man:** Light [Revelation] demands a response

17 From that time Jesus **began to preach** and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

- First Word of Gospel? **Not accept but...**

Repent.

Respond to the Light. Turn from your sin... Turn to God

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "**Follow Me,** and I will make you **fishers of men.**" 20 They **immediately left** their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and **immediately they left** the boat and their father, and followed Him.

- **Correct response to Jesus?** Drop everything and follow Him

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom,** and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 **Great multitudes followed Him**—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

- **Jesus begins His Ministry**

1. Preaching

2. Healing Diseases/Tormented
3. Delivering Demon Possessed

**Great Multitudes from all directions begin to converge on Jesus Christ
Preaching the Good News of the Kingdom**

SUMMARY Jesus Ministry Begins