

January 4 & 5, 2020

## IDENTIFICATION OF JESUS

Giving into temptation threatens to destroy three very important areas of our lives:

1. Family
2. Future
3. Faith

Matthew 4:1-3 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

Temptation #1: There's nothing wrong with meeting a legitimate need in an illegitimate way.

Matthew 4:4 *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Response #1: I will let God take care of my needs according to His Word.

Matthew 4:5-6 *Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will*

*command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

Temptation #2: God will bail me out of my dangerous decisions.

Matthew 4:7 *Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

Response #2: I will not test God by misusing His Word.

Matthew 4:8-9 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

Temptation #3: There's a shortcut to my future if I'll just sacrifice what's important for what's immediate.

Matthew 4:10 *Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

Response #3: I will choose the delayed rewards of my future after obedience to God now.

### Concluding Thoughts

Jesus passed the test that showed He had the moral fitness to reign as the King.

If it's self-centered, it's not from God.

Choose the delayed rewards of obedience by saying, "Satan...you cannot take my family, you cannot take my future, and you cannot take my faith."