

## The Test

Will I do what is right and trust the Lord? Or will I take matters into my own hands, take the short cut, hoping the end will justify the means? This is the test that Jesus faced in the desert. Would He trust the father? We all have to answer the same questions:

- Do I trust God is good, He is for me, and has my best interest at heart?
- Do I trust God is present and at work in my circumstances?
- Do I trust His wisdom rather than my limited understanding?
- Do I trust following Jesus leads to a blessed life and eternal rewards?

“Temptation is not a test of your will power but a test of your relationship.”

### Matthew 4, The Temptation of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup> For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. <sup>3</sup> During that time the devil<sup>ⓐ</sup> came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’<sup>ⓑ</sup>”<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup> and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’<sup>ⓐ</sup>” <sup>7</sup> Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the LORD your God.’<sup>ⓑ</sup>” <sup>8</sup> Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’<sup>ⓐ</sup>” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Often, we are tested in a moment of weakness. This is why it is so important to monitor and care for your soul. We have to care for the condition of our souls or we will end up doing something foolish.

#### 1. The Comfort Test.

Is your personal comfort more important than your relationship with God?

**John 4:** As long as you drink this water you will never be satisfied.

- Food, sex, money, sleep, security, health are all good things. However, if you have all that but miss God will you really be happy?

My life, this world, and my circumstances are all temporary. I live by receiving from God every day what I need for life and godliness. My life is filled everyday with His life!

#### 2. The Miracle Test.

Have you ever prayed one of these prayers, “God if you will just save me from this situation, I will do whatever you want me to do!” I suspect most of us have prayed a number of prayers like that and the question is, did you follow through?

**John 11:40-47, 53, Matthew 16:1-4**

If signs do not draw us closer to Jesus, what does? Suffering and Pain!

My wish would be for Jesus to return to rapture His church.

- You may have wished for money but in His kingdom, the streets are paved with gold.
- You may have wished for healing but in the kingdom, there is no sickness, no disease.
- You may have wished for a vacation but in His kingdom, we will be eternally at rest!

Jesus, bring us home because in his kingdom every other request is yes and Amen! This is not our home and our suffering is temporary!

### 3. **The Contentment test.**

The world says, you can have it all and we are sold. We are not satisfied though and we wish we could go back and hang onto what we sacrificed because now we can see it was far more valuable than what we gained.

- Adam and Eve
- Solomon

**Mark 8:36**, “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?”

“The most disappointing moment I believe you will ever experience is when you gain, after making a great sacrifice, what you thought would provide the ultimate happiness only to discover it does not satisfy.”

**Psalm 37:4**, “Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”  
(NASB)

Do not take the short cut. Reject independence and let’s trust God to lead us into a blessed life!