

July 9th, 2023

But on Every Word

Review:

- This series is about worldview; specifically, it's about having a biblical worldview.
- Jesus started many statements in **Matthew** with the word, “**But.**”
 - Definition, “**but**”: a conjunction that means “*on the contrary*,” and is used to indicate contrast or opposition between elements in a sentence.
- These statements challenged the audience to think differently about what they thought they knew about God, and how God expects us to live.

Today's Passage: **Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)**

Things to understand about this passage:

- Temptation is **NOT** a sin.
- What we do with temptation can lead to sin.
- The Holy Spirit directed Jesus into the desert to be tempted.
- Most people do everything they can to avoid difficulty and see it as a result of living against God's Will.
- Although God does **NOT** tempt us (**James 1:13-15**), He allows us to go through hard things if it is what is best for us or others.
- In **Matthew 3:16-17**, God had just spoken that Jesus is His Son, and that He was pleased with Jesus. In Satan's first temptation, he attacks Jesus' identity as God's Son.
- Satan used Scripture to tempt Jesus. He is good at using some version of the truth to get us off course.
- Each time Jesus was tempted, He combatted it with Scripture—from **Deuteronomy**.

The 3 Temptations:

1) **Comfort:** to be more concerned about earthly needs than the Will of God.

- There is nothing wrong with fulfilling earthly needs unless it goes against God's Will.
- Apparently, the Holy Spirit had let Jesus know He was supposed to fast.
- This wasn't the only time Jesus put spiritual work above physical needs (**John 4:31-34**).
- How often do we put our physical needs before God's Will?
- Not just physical needs, but approval, love, pleasure, etc.

2) **Pride:** To show the world who Jesus was in spectacular fashion.

- Jesus had a mission—to show the world who God is.
- While Jesus was a miracle worker, He oftentimes desired that His miracles weren't publicized because He wanted people to know the Father and how much He loves them, rather than receive notoriety Himself.
- Jesus' love and teachings were what led people to God, not His miracles. His miracles pointed toward His divinity, yet people oftentimes didn't recognize that.
- How often do we promote ourselves rather than God?

3) **Power:** Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world.

- While Jesus was God's Son and heir to all the kingdoms of the world, the process to obtain that God's way was long and difficult.
- This whole process could have been expedited if Jesus had taken Satan's offer. Instead of starting with a handful of disciples, He could simply convert the kingdoms of the world into God's kingdom. He could have bypassed a lot of cultural resistance.
- Satan always offers shortcuts that sound good but bring death (**1 Timothy 6:9-10**).

Temptation Realities:

- All of us are tempted to sin. It's a part of life due to a fallen nature (**Romans 7:21-24**).
- God gives us Jesus' sacrifice to free us from sin, and His Holy Spirit to help us (**Romans 7:25-8:6**).
- It's only through the power of the Holy Spirit in us that we can conquer temptation as we understand God's Word and become more like Jesus.
- Your temptations are not so great that you can't conquer them with God's help (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

TO DISCUSS IN LIFE GROUP OR WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: **Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)**

Ice Breaker: What stood out to you the most from the sermon this week?

Main Point: God's Word provides everything we need to know to live a godly life, including how to fight temptation.

1. Where was Jesus and who was He with when He was tempted?
2. When does the devil typically launch attacks in your life?
3. What three things was Jesus tempted with?
4. How did Jesus resist the temptations?
5. Even though Jesus resisted, why were those things a temptation?
6. How do you resist temptation when it comes your way?
7. What can you do to prepare for temptation before it comes?

Supporting Scripture:

- **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- **1 Peter 5:6-11**
- **James 4:7-10**