

Matthew 4:1-11 “Who’s Your Daddy?”

Stand Read Pray

We left off last time at the cool waters of the Jordan and the excitement of the baptism of Jesus. A place where we saw the heavens open and the voice of God say, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”. We were there and witnessed the Spirit come down in bodily form and rest upon the Messiah. It was time for the ministry of the Christ to a start. Before we see any miracles. Before we hear a great sermon. Before He feeds the five thousand the Spirit sends Him to the wilderness.

All of us will experience this. Before we can truly be used by the Lord there comes a time of testing. Remember, it’s not to prove something to God but to prove something to us. Jesus, as we saw last time must “Identify” with us to stand in our place on the cross. So, He must also be tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Matthew 4:1

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

We ask ourselves “why would God allow us to be tempted?”. How would you and I know freedom from sin by the power of the Spirit if it is never tested? How would we know our weaknesses and the places that still need to be worked on if we never struggled?

We do know:

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

So, Jesus is led into the wilderness and is tempted by the Devil. Which is funny as we just read the scripture that God won't allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. The reality of it is that the Devil is no match to Jesus. And as we will find out today, he is no match to the God who lives inside of you!

Matthew 4:2

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

From what I understand that after a person starts to fast after a few days you stop being hungry. Doctors say that when the time comes that you start getting hungry again your body is now eating itself and if you don't start eating again soon you will die. When we see the characters in bible fasting for this length of time it is supernatural. Please don't try this at home!

So now we get into the first of the three temptations.

Matthew 4:3-4

Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

The word "if" is better translated "since". Satan is not doubting Who Jesus is, but he is trying to get Jesus to use his power for selfish needs. Notice the first thing he comes at Him with is the needs of the flesh. Jesus realizes that His trust is in God and not in Himself. He was fully submitted to the Father's will and was not going to use His deity for anything but. Then we notice that Jesus uses the Word of God to fight the temptation. This is a powerful lesson for you and me. But it's not just the quoting of memorized scripture that does it. It is from the resources of those who believe it and hide it within your heart.

Psalm 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You

What scripture does Jesus quote?

Deuteronomy 8:3

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

Notice this was a scripture that Moses was sharing to the next generation that was going into the promised land. Its context is that God was testing and training them for just what Jesus was using it for...to fully trust in Him and His word!

The Second Temptation

Matthew 4:5-7

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.'*** "

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'
"

OK, now the Devil is quoting scripture! He knows the bible better than you, but he can't understand it like you. For him it has no power but for us...it is the Power of God. He will try to get us to doubt it or even think it says something it doesn't. I have heard people misquote scripture to justify their sin. You know, "Judge not, lest you be judged!" What did the Devil do wrong? He did not include the context. Let's look at it in its context...

Psalm 91:11-12

For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Notice what was missing? To keep Him in His way, not when He goes out of His way! A text with out a context is how many false teachers deceive the masses. It is a trick of Satan that he still uses today. Be aware of it and understand that truth.

Now Jesus, again uses scripture to resist the temptation. It is from:

Deuteronomy 6:16

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

What happened at Massah? They questioned the Lord’s faithfulness. This is when they first got to the wilderness and needed water. Exodus 17:7 says “So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Now for the third temptation

Matthew 4:8-10

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.”

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.’ ”

We find here the Devil’s ultimate objective...worship. He wants Jesus to submit to him and not the Father. But notice what he tempts him with, the nations of the world! Wait a minute, how does he have the authority to do that? Because since the fall he has become the Lord of this world, the prince and the power of the air. Adam gave up his dominion of creation to Satan in the garden. We do not have time to get into that one but if you go to the app or website or YouTube and find the study in Revelation 5:1 we called “The Title Deed to Creation” I cover all of it in detail there. But needless to say, we also know this because Jesus never corrects the Devil. He could have just said “Um, that is not yours to give.” But He doesn’t.

Luke's version says something very interesting...

Luke 4:5

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a **moment of time**.

Now, I am sure this was all the good things about the kingdoms. All the glory and splendor. A kind of Chamber of Commerce version to sell you on it. But what does Jesus do? He puts Satan in his place! And how can he do that? On the authority of God's word!

Deuteronomy 10:20

You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.

Deuteronomy 6:13

You must fear the Lord your God and serve him. When you take an oath, you must use only his name.

There is a translation issue when comparing the scriptures but no contradiction. Jesus was rightly quoting it and using it to put the devil in his place.

And we see what happens...

Matthew 4:11

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

Do you know the Devil still uses the same tricks today? That Paul tells us that...

2 Corinthians 2:11

...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

What are his devices?

1 John 2:15-17

15 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.

Notice, it is the same things. The lust of the flesh is the first temptation to turn stones into bread. The lust of the eyes is the kingdom of this world, and the pride of life is the testing of God.

The evil triunity against us is always a threat.

The Devil

Our Flesh

The World

It worked for him in the beginning!

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree desirable to **make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

So, what are we to do?

Remember 1 John 4:4:

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

And:

James 4:4-8

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Before we leave, one more thought...

Luke 4:13

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

When will that be?

1 John 2:15-18

5 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.

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

The Antichrist will accept all three of Satan’s offers!

That leaves us with a picture of what is coming. That Satan will have a more opportune time and that time is coming.

As we see the world giving up on anything to do with God, they are left up to their own ignorance that will fall for the wiles of the devil.

For us we are told:

Ephesians 6:11:12

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil**. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

You need to make sure you are in Christ or you will fall into...

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The only way to defeat delusion is to put your faith and trust in Christ. Do it today!

Stand and pray, close with new song