1 – **The Temptations Of Jesus**

Matthew 4:1-11

2 - **Jesus’ Temptations In The Wilderness –** Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

The setting:

* After fasting 40 days, He was led (Mark 1:13) by the Holy Spirit alone into “*the wilderness*” to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). (How? Against His will?)
* When does Satan attack us? Always, but especially when we’re alone, weak & tired. (Ephesians 6:11; Eccles. 4:9-12; Hebrews 10:23-25)

3 - **Jesus’ Temptations In The Wilderness –** Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

* **If Jesus can overcome… can we?**
* **Did He overcome or resist in a way that we can’t?**
* What does the command to ***“follow Me”*** (Luke 9:23; John 21:19) imply regarding temptation?

4 - **The Significance Of Jesus’ Temptations In The Wilderness –** Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

He had to “***share in flesh and blood***” and be “***tempted***” in all respects, so that He might d**efeat the devil**, d**eliver us from bondage** and “b**ecome a merciful and faithful high priest**” (Hebrews 2:14-18)

He can ***“sympathize with our weaknesses”*** since He was ***“tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin”*** (1 John 2:15) so we can therefore ***“draw near with confidence to the throne of grace”*** to receive “***mercy***” and “***grace to help in time of need***”. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

5 - **1st Temptation – Turning Stones To Bread** Matthew 4:3

**What is the temptation?**

Why is it wrong? Because Satan suggested it?

* Was it **immoral**?
* Was it **strictly forbidden**? (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23)
* Was there a **benefit**? (1 Samuel 15; Matthew 7:21-23)

6 - **1st Temptation – Turning Stones To Bread** Matthew 4:3

Prove who you (still) are! ***“If you are the Son of God…”***

* Challenging **the lust of the flesh & the pride of life**. (1 John 2:15)
* In the flesh, **are You still God’s son… do You have power**?
	+ Use His divine power for **His own selfish & personal benefit**…
	**just this once**… what about next time… **at the cross**?
	+ **What were the purpose of miracles**? (Hebrews 2:3-4)
* Consider Jesus’ call to ***“follow Me”***… could we?
(Luke 9:23; John 21:19)

7 - **1st Temptation – Turning Stones To Bread** Matthew 4:3

First, note each time Jesus’ reply began with ***“It is written”*** .

We need to be able to **call scripture to mind**. (2 Peter 1:12-15; Psalms 119:11)

To be able to “***call these things to mind***”, it takes work – and time. (2 Timothy 2:15; Ezra 7:10)

Ignorance kills – (Hosea 4:6)

8 - **1st Temptation – Turning Stones To Bread** Matthew 4:3

***“It is written”***. Jesus quotes from **Deuteronomy 8:3** – *“And He humbled you and* ***let you be hungry…******that He might make you understand*** *that* ***man does not live by bread alone****, but man lives by* ***everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord****.”*

The Israelites and their need to learn to trust and depend on God.

God knows what we need… do we trust Him? (Matthew 6:8, 32).

9 - **1st Temptation – Turning Stones To Bread -** Matthew 4:3

Jesus’ response... What shall man ***“live on”***? The fleshly or the spiritual? (John 6:27)

**The real temptation to walk according to the flesh** and not the Spirit. (Romans 8:4-13; Galatians 5:16-17; 6:7-8)

What is Satan hoping to accuse Jesus of?

Every temptation is an opportunity to prove the devil wrong and make Jesus smile.

10 - **2nd Temptation – If You Are The Son of God, Throw Yourself Down…” -** Matthew 4:5-6

**Again, what is the temptation?**

Again, ***“if You are the Son of God”*** – **prove who You are**… (Matthew 27:40-42)

**Is God really with you**? (John 8:29; 16:32)
How Jesus found out God was with Him… (Matthew 3:17)

**Why wait until the cross to find out if God is with you**? Would Jesus walk by faith or by sight? (note 1 Peter 2:23)

Satan once again seeking to **thwart the very purpose and mission** of Jesus right from the start.

11 - **2nd Temptation – If You Are The Son of God, Throw Yourself Down…” -** Matthew 4:5-6

**Are we sure who we are?** (1 Peter 2:9-12)

**Are we sure God is with us? How can we know?**
(Philippians 4:9; 1 John 1:5-9; 2 John 9; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 6:33; Revelation 3:20?)

12 - **2nd Temptation – If You Are The Son of God, Throw Yourself Down…” -** Matthew 4:5-6

**Satan uses scriptures too! *“* (Psalms 91:11-12).**

Anything can be proven from scriptures when taken out of context. The dangers of distorting scripture. (2 Peter 3:16)

**What is the context of Psalms 91?** Protection to the one who trusts in God.

* An exhortation to put our faith and trust in God…
not to test Him!
* Written to encourage faith… not test it!

**Satan instead uses these verses to ask, “are you sure God is really with You?”**

13 - **2nd Temptation – If You Are The Son of God, Throw Yourself Down…” -** Matthew 4:5-6

Jesus’ reply: “***Again it is written****, ‘you shall not put the Lord your God to the test*’” (Deut. 6:16, ESV*;* renewal or repetition of the action; Thayer)

“…*Is the Lord among us?*...” (Ex. 17:2-7; cf., Num. 14:22 (10 times?))

**Show us a sign and we’ll believe** (John 6:30; Matthew 27:40-43)

It’s our responsibility to prove ourselves to God! It’s not God’s responsibility to prove Himself to us!

14 - **2nd Temptation – If You Are The Son of God, Throw Yourself Down…” -** Matthew 4:5-6

The need to **walk by faith and not by sight**.
(2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17)

The need to **properly use & apply (handle accurately) God’s word**. (2 Timothy 2:15).

Scripture is sufficient for all we need. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 3:16)

15 - **3rd Temptation – All These Things I Will Give You If You Worship me…** Matthew 4:9

What “***things***”? The things of this world.

* Some question if Satan had the ability to fulfill what he promised as the “*god of this world*”. (Luke 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31)
* Doesn’t matter – Satan doesn’t fulfill on what he promises us does he? (i.e., did he fulfill his promise to Adam and Eve, Esau, King David or anyone else for that matter?)

16 - **3rd Temptation – All These Things I Will Give You If You Worship me…** Matthew 4:9

* Was not Jesus promised a kingdom with all authority and dominion? (Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 9:6-7)
* Was He not promised that He would return to His former glory? (John 12:28; 17:1-5)
* Could Jesus have it all, both **physical and spiritual**? Both **now and later**? (Matthew 6:19-24; Hebrews 11:24-26) One foot in **the world** and one in spiritual **kingdom**?
(1 Kings 18:21)
* **All without the pain of the cross?**