

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## It Is Written

Matthew 4:1-11

Last week: two distinct families, Brood of Vipers and Son and sons of God

Are we ready for hard things that come our way?

Work problems, relationships, broken appliances, bills, etc.

**James 1:12-15 NKJV - Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

**God will not *tempt* you in a bad way. But you will be tested.**

More so to show you what is in you - if you trust Him or not.

**1 Corinthians 10:9-13 NKJV - nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 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].**

There's always a way out of temptation. A way *not* to sin. If we'll choose it. As believers, we have that choice. We are no longer slaves to sin.

DGC

- *Many commentators believe it is improper to refer to this section as the temptation of Jesus, because the word peirazo is more often and more accurately translated testing instead of temptation. "Peirazein has a quite different element in its meaning. It means to test far more than it means to tempt in our sense of the word." (Barclay)*
- *"Luther's remark stands true, that prayer, meditation, and temptation, are the three best instructors of the gospel minister." (Spurgeon)*

[Pray]

## 4:1

### **Led up by the Spirit**

- It's not often we think that this was the Holy Spirit's doing
- We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as inspiring other things
- But being led into the wilderness...**to be tempted?**

### **We often ask, "where is God leading you?"**

*Greatest pastoral advice is...what is God showing you?*

### **It's not often we'd say God is leading me to be tempted!**

Not that God wants us to fall or is trying to trip us up...no

But instead, take us to the next level

**When there's not a lot of temptation - we're either just giving into it and cold to it**

**Or we're not getting ready to forge out in a deeper, more powerful and potent place with the Lord**

### **The way out of the wilderness is through overcoming temptation**

The israelites failed and never left the wilderness

2 week journey lasted 40 years and the generation that failed...died there

### **God doesn't want you to die in temptation, but instead, be refined by it**

**1 Peter 1:6-9 NKJV - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see [Him], yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of [your] souls.**

### **Refiner's Fire**

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold and precious silver

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's fire

My heart's one desire

Is to be holy

Set apart for You, Lord

I choose to be holy

Set apart for You, my Master

Ready to do Your will

**We all have God-given desires. Fulfillment. Joy. Pleasure. Companionship. Success. But we sin when we give into the fleshly fulfillment of those desires. It corrupts us.**

**The world is corrupted by sin - they claim their identity in the perversion of their own desires.** I guarantee the end of fulfilling a desire perversely is seeking to do it a little more perversely the next time and the next...and the next.

**Until the perversion is deep and pervasive.**

*It's no wonder satan is targeting kids through the schools and the internet and phones given freely by ignorant parents*

***James...drawn away by his own desires***

**Being empowered to obedience with the Holy Spirit was Jesus' desire**

**Psalm 37:4-5 NKJV - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring [it] to pass.**

**The way to true fulfillment of even our deepest desires...is by first resisting the temptation to fulfill them any other way than by with and through and from God.**

*King Saul - impatient, waiting on Samuel, worried about the enemy, worried about losing the people following him, takes the priesthood into his own hands - despite knowing better - and loses everything because of it*

***"The road to hell is paved with good intentions" - Wesley?***

*That's the scariest part about our modern societal corruption is - the people doing it believe they are doing the right thing for good reasons*

**Into the wilderness**

Jesus is taken away from his friends, his family, his home, his comfort, the crowd who just heard he's the son of God and God is pleased with him.

You'd think that'd be the perfect platform to start the ministry. He's got the accolades and heavenly recognition.

**Instead it was through a dry and lonely time. A time full of need in every possible way.**

*Manna in the wilderness. Water from the rock. All the Israelites had to go on.*

*Yet their sandals and clothes didn't wear out.*

**God will bring us through wilderness seasons to bring us to fruitful valleys**

Do not settle for the green on this side of the hard time.

*Even in Work first, play later - the hard thing now makes the joy of the playful thing later better  
Rather have afternoon off than the morning*

*Coming to Jesus took a wilderness season - taken away from everything I loved and relied on to NY*

*Finding good friends after becoming a believer - took a real wilderness season*

**The wilderness is an area free from distraction.**

No place to go. Nothing to do. Nobody around. Nothing to enjoy. It's dirty. Can be miserable. Wind swept. It can be very dark at night and very hot in the day.

**Distractions take our focus away.**

The TV always on.

The phone always peered into.

Friends always around.

Some job to always do.

**Can be good sometimes to be distracted - necessary.**

But in order to really get to the root of our problems. The answer to our heart's questions and desires. The better places in our life spiritually - we must get rid of the distractions and go away to a solitary place.

**But the solitary place is also dangerous.** Where no one can see you. Where you can get away with something. Where you see what you've really been wanting.

**If you want more of God in your life, know that it will likely begin in a wilderness season. See if God would lead you to and through one. For his glory and your reward.**

**Who's doing the tempting? the devil**

Word here means

prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer,

*Nothing like a little lie told about us or to us to get us to choose the wrong thing*

**God would seriously bring you somewhere he knows the enemy is?**

Yes. Why?

**1 John 4:4b**

**He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

**Make no mistake - the enemy, despite him thinking he's serving his own purposes, in his very act of tempting and wanting to make us fall - is serving God's larger purpose.**

**There is nothing and no one that is not somehow used by God, despite their very opposition to Him. He's all powerful in every aspect of every dimension.**

## :2-4

### The temptation didn't come for 40 days and 40 nights

*DGC It is said that when hunger pains return after such a fast (He was hungry), it indicates the subject is beginning to starve to death.*

*This is a familiar period of testing in the Bible, both in the days of Noah and for Israel in the wilderness. Jesus will succeed where Israel as a nation failed.*

**When we're tempted, it usually comes after we've learned something or been encouraged in something or called to do something.**

**The instruction is put to the test. "Feet to our faith"**

**In this case, Jesus knew He was the Son of God, but then God publicly proclaimed it**

**"If you are the son of God"** can you hear the disdain? The hiss? Maybe it was more subtle, like a salesman putting his arm around you, a flatterer

*If is "since"*

### **1 - The first temptation - the lust of the flesh**

He's hungry, about to die.

He's God, make some bread

*But Jesus is the Word, IS the bread of heaven*

*The real priority of life is not feeding the belly, but feeding the Spirit*

**1 Timothy 4:8 NKJV - For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.**

Being healthy is good & beneficial to this life - but it will not save you.

It will not prepare you for the life that outlives this one. Eternal life.

*DGC*

*i. What Satan suggested made sense — "Why starve yourself to death?" But what is written makes even more sense.*

*It wasn't a matter of refusing supernatural help; it was a matter of submitting to His Father's timing and will in all things.*

**It is written**

Jesus could have blown satan to smithereens, and probably have been right to do it  
But instead he relied on the word of God

**The same weapon we have. It's the most powerful thing in the universe.**

**Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV - For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.**

**Jude 1:8-10 NKJV - Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.**

**When the enemy comes to us - we are not to fight him on our own terms.**

He's been around much longer. He's way smarter than us. Can read us like a book, heard it all before. But he's also nothing to Jesus.

*People rebuking the enemy or songs declaring things*

**NO! LET JESUS DO IT. STAND BEHIND YOUR SAVIOR, YOUR PROTECTOR.**

*He's the only one they're afraid of.*

**Acts 19:15 NKJV - And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"**

**:5-7**

The enemy doesn't leave after this first one, he just steps his game up to the next level.  
Jesus beat him round one, onto round 2

**OK, you trust God's word, fine. Well let's look at what God's word says and let's try it out.  
Let's prove it.**

**2 - Second temptation - Pride of life**

Goes after the thing that means most to Jesus - His relationship with the Father  
And the thing that God just announced to the world.

**In the wilderness, now 200' above the ground**

The pinnacle of the temple

*Angel moroni*

**This is the place Jesus loved to be  
“To be about His Father’s business”**

**Temptation in ministry to think of yourself as the most important part of it**

- To think ministry position or power or title is the most important thing
- Your place in God’s kingdom above all else
- Maintained
- Subordinate to

*“Shepherding” vs. Feeding the sheep*

***DGC The devil’s suggestions was of an artificially created crisis, not of trusting God in the situations which result from obedient service.”***

**Of course the angels would care for Jesus**, he could have called legions of them down later at the cross - but he didn’t. He succeeded in this temptation and it prepared him for that one later.

**Surviving temptation now will help you resist stronger temptation later**

**:8-11**

**Round 3 - lust of the eyes**

**Jesus keeps using the weapon he understands - and it’s the most effective**

The right tool for the job

**In the spiritual war only one weapon is powerful enough**

**Ephesians 6:12 NKJV - 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].**

The importance of knowing and understanding Scripture. Satan knows it but twists it!  
It’s no wonder the thing that the enemy goes after in the church is the pulpit!

**Getting a pastor to fall is one thing. If people know the word they’ll go on and be OK - but getting a pastor to not teach the word is far more effective. They’ll keep coming back and stay unequipped and in fact - be equipped to fail.**

The education system today is not just bad at educating - it’s educating and encouraging kids to quickly go down the ways of ruin.

*Like we read recently "My people will perish for a lack of... KNOWLEDGE"*

**Psalm 119:9-16 NKJV - BETH. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed [are] You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As [much as] in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.**

**Jesus was likely spending time in Deuteronomy while in the wilderness based on what he answers with (ch 6 & 8)**

God will give you strength for each day and what comes in it - with your devotions. You don't necessarily need to go looking all the time - it helps - but your daily bread will suffice for daily troubles.

**Exceedingly high mountain - everest?**

**All the kingdoms of the world and their glory** - space perhaps? Maybe looking throughout all time

**This is what Jesus wanted the most in his mission for the father - that the world might be God's Kingdom again**

**That all people would know and worship and be ruled by their creator - the one who loves them, not gives them everything they want - the one who gives them - and is - everything they need**

**It would be Jesus reward for going to the cross - his inheritance as son fulfilled**

**Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Satan offers it to Jesus here - and Jesus doesn't correct satan is his ability to give it**  
 Adam and Eve gave the title deed to earth - what man was supposed to rule, to him  
 Powers and principalities - if you think the conspiracies about the world powers are bunk, well you've been deceived.



**The conspiracy may not be known directly to the world leaders - but they are pawns in the larger conspiracy**

**Jesus now commands him away - by name here**  
adversary (one who opposes another in purpose or act)

**Not only answering for himself, but calls the devil out in his own game**  
**Satan is a created being, created to worship and serve God, but who tried to exalt himself through the lies come up in his own heart**

**The enemy is projecting! The accuser is the one who was the first in heaven to commit all the heinous acts. The one who wants to rule heaven! He rules the world for now but his kingdom has bounds and he has limits - it'd be impossible for him to rule heaven. But he thinks he can.**

**Jesus puts his foot down. Serving God is the end all be all of everything in the universe - even the Son of God is not out to serve himself.**

God's provision had already come - in Jesus. God's provision for Jesus was already there - the Word of God. Once this was totally relied on - the physical need is truly met.

**We'll see our physical needs met when we've let our spirit be fed and relied on the Word of God.**

**Perhaps then, we'll even see that we didn't really have a physical need at all.**  
**And through all of it, we just needed to see that all we need is Jesus.**

**If the Word of God is good enough for Jesus in every need, it should be more than enough for us.**