

**Obedient Israel in the Wilderness**  
Matthew 4:1-11

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Matthew's Gospel focuses on three main ideas: The Kingdom, Israel, and the King

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These stages can be categorized by the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant into Exile, and the Exile to Restoration.

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The last stage of Israel's history, and the one predicted by the prophets of old in each of these stages was the restoration that will take place with the coming of the Messiah and with him the kingdom of God as predicted in several places

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Matthew 2: The story of Israel beginning with Moses.

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Hosea 11:1

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

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Israel, though a nation of millions of people, is here treated like a single son in this prophetic Word from Hosea. Like Israel coming out of Egypt, so Jesus comes out of Egypt to which Matthew attributes the prophecy fulfilled in Matthew 2:14-15.

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Matthew 3: The Forerunner of the Messiah and the coming of the Kingdom.

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This act of the Holy Spirit sent by the Father and bestowed on the Son for his mission is in fulfillment of Isaiah 42:1

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Isaiah 42:1

"Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

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Matthew 4: Israel's Testing in the Wilderness.

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Similar to the pillar of cloud and fire that led Israel through the wilderness for their testing of obedience to the covenant made at Sinai, so here Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit to be tested in the wilderness as the true obedient Son, Israel

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Jesus was offered up to be tested of his trust of the Father's word against the Dragon, a test which Adam, Israel, and all of us have failed.

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The comment about Jesus being hungry may seem like an obvious redundancy, however it is to drive the point home that Jesus is enduring this testing as a true human man.

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Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin"

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Jesus didn't need to be tempted with every single permutation of every kind of sin because it is from that singular source in the heart connected to the body that the physical appetites flow out from.

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This brings up the main point of application which we can draw from Jesus' example. "... every word that comes from the mouth of God."

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If you want to know the will of God, you must have the mind of God, and to have the mind of God requires that you know the word of God and to know the word of God requires that you learn to apply your mind to study, memorize, and wisely apply the Word of God in every circumstance

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Mere sustenance is enough to exist but submitting to the word of God is the true key to living.

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Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12 to get Jesus to do what Herod had failed to do: to kill the Son of God.

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Presumption is not faith, it is pride. Putting yourself in authority by holding God accountable in the form of testing him and his promises is a mockery and counterfeit of faith.

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Satan's Tactic #3: verses 8-9 The Lust of the Eyes.

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There is no shortcut to holiness.

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Deuteronomy 6:4-14

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Proverbs 4:23

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."

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The answer to our apologetic question than is this: All three categories of sin are the basis for which the heart expresses itself in all the various manifestations of temptations and sins.

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**Sermon: Matthew 4:1-11**

**Obedient Israel in the Wilderness**

**1. How do you know if you are relying on the flesh or the Spirit to overcome temptation? Consider the following passages:**

- A. Ephesians 6:17**
- B. Hebrews 4:12**
- C. Galatians 5:16-25, 6:6-9**
- D. John 6:63**

**2. Sin is attractive, not always obvious, and may be very subtle. What are the concrete ways that God's word directs us to guard the heart?**

- A. Proverbs 4:23** \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Romans 12:2** \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Jer. 17:9-10** \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Phil. 4:7** \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Joshua 1:8** \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Titus 2:11-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is the meaning and application of 1 Cor. 10:13-14?**

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**What is the relationship between temptation and the idols of our heart? See Psalm 115:4-8 & Eph. 2:2-3 for help.**

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**4. Is the active obedience of Christ an essential non-negotiable component of the gospel? Why or why not?**

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**5. Should the active obedience of Christ give you comfort in your own salvation?**

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**6. Should the active obedience of Christ be part of your gospel presentation to others?**

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**7. How could meditating on the active obedience of Christ increase one's true worship which leads to holiness? See Phil. 1:8-11.**

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