

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM JESUS' TEMPTATION?  
MATTHEW 4:1-11

**Introduction**

Let me remind you that before our messages leading up to and including our look at the **DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION of CHRIST**, I brought an important message relating to what we see here *Matthew 4:1-11* and *Luke 4:1-13* on **"THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S TEMPTATION."**

The question that we answered then was this: **COULD JESUS HAVE SINNED?** I'm not going to re-preach that message but just remind you of one key point: **"These trials we see were not to see if Christ would sin, but rather to prove that HE would not sin!"** It was for our benefit!

Our text deals with the account of the **TEMPTATION** of our **LORD and SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST** by the **DEVIL**. **SCRIPTURE** indicates that **HE** left the **JORDAN RIVER** after **HIS BAPTISM** and was immediately led of the **SPIRIT** into the wilderness to be **TEMPTED** of the **DEVIL!**

Now, the wilderness might seem like a strange place to be **TEMPTED**. But let me ask, have you ever been **TEMPTED** in a time and place that you least expected it? It happens!

We know that **TEMPTATION** has been with us ever since the **SERPENT TEMPTED EVE** in the **GARDEN OF EDEN** in *Genesis 3*. We know the story of how **SATAN** came to her **SUBTLY** and got her focus off of **GOD** and **HIS COMMAND** and on to the fruit of the forbidden tree! She **YIELDED** to the **TEMPTATION** and when she gave to **ADAM** he participated and **SINNED** with her bringing **SIN** into the world!

And now, **TEMPTATION** is something we all deal with on a daily basis:

1. It can greet us when we awake...
2. It can meet us as we begin our daily routine...
3. It can find us on our way to work or as we go out and about...
4. It can provoke us at our places of business or in the market place...
5. It can find us in our leisure activities...
6. It can even find us at Church...
7. It can meet us again as we return home again...
8. Sometimes it can even test us as we retire to sleep...

In fact, **TEMPTATION** can seem almost omnipresent at times!

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MATTHEW 4:1-11

Somebody said it this way: **"Watch out for temptation! Because the more you see of it the better it looks."** That's true isn't it!

Sometimes it seems as though **SATAN** and his **TEMPTATIONS** try to wear us down **by repeatedly coming our way, chipping away at our defenses,** and just waiting for us to **YIELD** to **TEMPTATION'S** constant harassments!

I'm glad that we have **JESUS** to help us **RESIST TEMPTATIONS:** *Hebrews 4:15-16*—**"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."**

**LET'S UNDERSTAND SOME THINGS ABOUT TEMPTATION HERE:**

1. **Understand That Whenever TEMPTATION Comes Our Way, It Is Not Without The Knowledge Of The LORD Or Without HIS Permission! (Vs 1)**
  - A. **We See The SPIRIT Led JESUS In A Particular Direction!**
  - B. **We See The SPIRIT Led JESUS To A Particular Place!**
  - C. **We See The SPIRIT Led JESUS For A Particular Purpose!**

Now let's understand that though the **LORD GOD** may **LEAD** us **TO TIMES OF TESTING** and **TEMPTATION**, **HE** does so **TO LEAD US THROUGH THOSE TIMES FOR HIS GLORY**, but **HE NEVER TEMPTS US TO DO EVIL!**

*James 1:13-14*—**"13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."**

*e.g. The Testing Of Job. (Job 1:9-12; 2:3-7)*

**It wasn't the LORD who caused all of JOB'S woes, it was SATAN! It was the LORD who brought JOB through on the other side of HIS TIME OF TESTING AND TEMPTATION!**

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### MATTHEW 4:1-11

*Understand That Whenever TEMPTATION Comes Our Way, It Is Not Without The Knowledge Of The LORD Or Without HIS Permission!*

#### 2. Understand That Some Of Our Greatest SPIRITUAL PEAKS Can Be Followed By Times Of Some Of Our Greatest TESTING And TEMPTATION!

##### A. We See That JESUS Had Just Been BAPTIZED!

*Matthew 3:16-17*

##### B. We See That JESUS Us Had Just Been FASTING!

*Matthew 4:2*

##### C. We See That JESUS Was Just Beginning HIS MINISTRY! HIS BAPTISM signaled the beginning of HIS MINISTRY! From this point forward we see JESUS MINISTERING!

*e.g. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

#### 3. Understand That SATAN'S Attacks Come In THREE SPECIFIC AREAS: These can be seen in both SATAN'S TEMPTATION of EVE and of JESUS!

*Genesis 3:6—“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [The Lust Of The Flesh], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [The Lust Of The Eyes], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [The Pride Of Life], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*

##### A. The Lust Of The Flesh. (*Matthew 4:3*)

##### B. The Lust Of The Eyes. (*Matthew 4:8*)

##### C. The Pride Of Life. (*Matthew 4:6*)

#### 4. Understand That The Devil Most Often Will Begin TEMPTATION In The Area Of The Flesh At Which We Are The Most Weak Or Vulnerable! (*Vs 2-3*)

After 40 days of fasting, JESUS was hungry!

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### MATTHEW 4:1-11

*1 Corinthians 7:5—“Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”*

What is your WEAKNESS? Be careful and guard yourself in that area, because that is where SATAN is most likely to attack you!

#### 5. Understand That The SATAN Will TEMPT Us To Command Things And Demand Things That GOD Never Intended For Us!

##### A. SATAN Will Tempt Us To Depend On Self And Its Resources Instead Of On GOD And HIS Resources! (*Vs 3*) *1 Corinthians 10:31—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

##### B. SATAN Will Tempt Us To Exercise Our Own Self Will In An Area Where There Should Be Dependence Upon GOD! *Proverbs 3:5-6—“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

#### 6. Understand That SATAN Will Tempt Us To Exalt Self Through Pride And At The Same Time To Tempt GOD! (*Vs 6-7*) *e.g. Snake handlers. (Mark 16:18)*

Here is how SATAN works: He'll remind you that *1 John 1:9* is in the BIBLE. He'll say: “Go head and do it—the Lord will forgive you!”

*Psalms 19:13—“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous [i.e. arrogant] sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”*

#### 7. Understand That SATAN Will Twist And Misquote SCRIPTURE In An Attempt To Get Us To Fall Into TEMPTATION! (*Vs 6-7*)

##### A. He Leaves Out Important Parts. (*Psalms 91:11*)

##### B. He Takes Scripture Out Of Context. (*Psalms 91:9-16*)

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MATTHEW 4:1-11**

**8. Understand That SATAN Will TEMPT Us To Take Shortcuts To The WILL OF GOD! (Vs 8-9)**

When we try to shortcut, we normally end up getting cut short.

So these eight things that I have just now shared are some things we need to **UNDERSTAND ABOUT TEMPTATION!**

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**SO, HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION?**

**1. We MUST Be Awake And Aware To The Realization Of Both The TEMPTER And TEMPTATION!**

*1 Peter 5:8-9*—“**Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: **9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith,** knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

**2. We MUST To Look To JESUS As Our Example!  
(1 Peter 2:19-23; Hebrews 12:1-2)**

We **MUST RESIST TEMPTATION** the same way **JESUS** did!  
(Vs. 4, 7, 10-11)

*Psalm 119:11*—“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

*Psalm 119:105*—“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

*Ephesians 6:17*—“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”

*Hebrews 4:12*—“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

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MATTHEW 4:1-11**

*2 Timothy 2:15*—“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

*James 4:7*—“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

**3. We MUST Look To The LORD For Help In Our TEMPTATION!**

*1 Corinthians 10:13*—“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

*Hebrews 2:17-18*—“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

*James 4:8*—“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

**Conclusion**

D.L. Moody once said this about **TEMPTATION**: “When Christians find themselves exposed to temptation they should pray to God to uphold them, and when they are tempted they should not be discouraged. It is not a sin to be tempted; the sin is to fall into temptation.”

Are you having a problem with **TEMPTATION**?

What steps are you using to **RESIST TEMPTATION**?

Unless we deal with **TEMPTATION** the way **JESUS** did, it will more than likely triumph over us rather us triumphing over it!