

Faithfulness in Times of Testing

Matthew 4:1-11

Main Point:

While being tested Jesus remained faithful to the Father on your behalf; therefore, rely upon the enabling power of His victory and His Word as you pursue faithfulness in your times of testing.

1. Like the Israelites, Jesus was tested in the wilderness.

2. Unlike the Israelites, Jesus remained faithful to the Father while being tested.

3. Rely upon the enabling power of His victory and His Word as you pursue faithfulness in your times of testing.

Quotations and Cross-References

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. ² "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 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. (NKJV)

D.A. Carson "The main point is that both 'sons' were tested by God's design ... the one after being redeemed from Egypt and the other after his baptism, to prove their obedience and loyalty in preparation for their appointed work."

John Legg "Putting God to the test means asking him for proof of his faithfulness before you will trust him ..."

James 1:13 ¹³ 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. (NKJV)

1 Peter 1:6-7 ⁶ In this [your salvation] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ [so] 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, (NKJV)

John Legg "We [like Jesus] must trust and obey, trust and not test, trust and not look for pleasant shortcuts without suffering. We must use Scripture to strengthen our faith and so defeat Satan's wiles. More than this, we must fight against Satan in the strength of our knowledge that Jesus has beaten Satan once for all and that, in him, we too can be victorious."