



# LESSONS LEARNED IN THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Matthew 4:1-11 KJV

[1] Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. [2] And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. [3] And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. [4] But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. [5] Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, [6] And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. [7] Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. [8] Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [9] And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. [10] Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. [11] Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

# THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

**“IF-THEN” STATEMENTS:** “If thou be the Son of God....”

satan uses “if-then” statements when tempting Jesus because these type of conditional sentences present situations that can point to outcomes. “If thou be the Son of God”, then “command that these stones be made bread.” A subtle way of steering towards a conclusion. The “if” clause, “If thou be the Son of God” is a true statement. Therefore, the “then” clause is followed, “command that these stones be made bread.”

When the “if” clause is false, the “then” clause is no longer applicable and the statement breaks down.” satan gets us to focus on two immediate conditions and ignore the bigger picture, “if you are hungry, then steal the bread.” It’s also a way of getting you to half agree with him at the onset, “well, I am kind of hungry...” If we weren’t hungry, there would be no reason to finish the statement, and as such, there would be no temptation.

**JESUS’S RESPONSE:** “It is written,...”

Jesus did not get into a debate with satan, because satan is a liar. Jesus used declarative statements, “It is written,...” that offer no options, no conditions, and point directly to the Word of God each time because God’s word is truth, over which satan has no power.

**TEMPTATION #1:** “...command that these stones be made bread. ”

satan already knew Jesus could turn the stones into bread, but by enticing him, he could get him to use God’s power to suit his own needs above fulfilling the will of the father. After fasting 40 days, satan knew Jesus would be in a weakened state and vulnerable so satan used hunger against Jesus. satan was also suggesting God hadn’t properly made provision for him and dared Jesus to perform a miraculous work in order to prove his deity, “If thou be the Son of God....” God will always provide exactly what we need and will never forsake us.

Matthew 7:9 KJV

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

**JESUS’S RESPONSE:** “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Jesus is referring to Deuteronomy 8:3 where Moses tells the children of Israel that man does not live by bread alone but by the very words that come out of the mouth of God. He is reminding the Israelites how God fed them in the wilderness with manna after they humbled themselves before Him. Obeying God and submitting to His will are more important than bread alone. If we will be obedient, God will supply all our needs.

Deuteronomy 8:3 KJV

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

## TEMPTATION #2: “If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down...”

satan wanted Jesus to question whether or not God was with him and would provide all his needs. In this case, would God really send angels to save him from a fall? Challenging God to prove his word to us shows our own lack of faith and sinful arrogance, it does not alter the word of God.

Romans 3:3 KJV

For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

## JESUS’S RESPONSE: “...Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”

Jesus is referring to Deuteronomy 6:16 where the Israelites arrived in Massah and began to argue with Moses and complained to God about no water for them to drink. Instead of humbling themselves before God and being thankful for the manna He was already providing, they tested Him to see if He would actually provide for their needs by asking “Is the Lord among us, or not?” Moses named that place Massah (“testing”) and Meribah (“quarreling”)

Deuteronomy 6:16 KJV

Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Exodus 17:7 KJV

And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?

## TEMPTATION #3: “All these things will I give thee...”

A somewhat desperate plea from satan who already knew Jesus’s kingdom was far greater than anything he could offer, but the temptation was a way of trying to get Jesus’s eye off the big picture and focused on the immediate moment by suggesting he could shortcut God’s will and have it all right now. It also shows the real core of satan; pride. The pride of satan led to his downfall, he wanted to be God. Here is an example of his pride, still at work, revealing his desire to be worshipped over anything he has dominion over.

Isaiah 14:12-14 KJV

[12] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

## JESUS’S RESPONSE: “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God...”

Jesus is referring to Deuteronomy 6:13-14 then commands satan to leave, which Jesus could have done at any point during the temptations but did not, in order to show satan is already defeated. Loving the Lord thy God with all your heart is a foundational commandment and leaves no room for fooling around with the antics of satan. God is all we ever need and to fulfill His will for our life is one of our greatest blessings.

Deuteronomy 6:13-14 KJV

[13] Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. [14] Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

Matthew 22:37-38 KJV

[37] Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [38] This is the first and great commandment.

# THE TEMPTER

An intelligent being completely evil and directly involved in perpetrating evil in the lives of individuals as well as attempting to thwart the will of God.

**NAMES:** satan, the devil, the tempter, father of lies

**TEMPTATION:** an enticement to get a person to act contrary to God's will

## WAYS TO DEAL WITH TEMPTATION (JESUS)

1. Jesus was baptized by John and the awesome power of God came upon him.
2. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, testing is important.
3. Jesus fasted 40 days, this made him weak and vulnerable.
4. Jesus was given time in the wilderness to think, pray, and hear about his destiny.
5. satan appeared to Jesus at his weakest moment to tempt him to misuse his Godly power.
6. Jesus responded each time to satan's temptation by referring him back to God's word.
7. Jesus did not argue or debate with satan about his lies.

Jesus had a plan for dealing with temptation. He had the word of God in his heart and referred to it before all issues that confronted him. We have to know "what is written" in order to rely on what is written. Reading the word of God consistently strengthens us with knowledge and creates a defense against satan's attacks and deceptions.

*Go to the word of God to find out what He says about your particular weakness. Pray and ask for strength when tempted in these areas.*

## UNDERSTANDING TEMPTATION

1. Temptation often follows high moments.
2. satan tempts us to doubt.
3. satan tempts us with discouragement or when we are overconfident.
4. God has limited satan's strength.
5. God uses temptation to teach us how to deal with it and to show us how we'll act.
6. God's use of us depends upon our ability to handle temptation. He does not tempt us and at times prevents us from being placed in situations that we could not handle.
7. Look beyond the overcoming of any specific temptation because satan waits in overconfidence.
8. Resist the devil in the power of the Holy Spirit.