

Matthew 4:1-11 The King's Trial (The King and His Kingdom)

Have you found in your life as a Christian that Big moments – where God touched your heart – or used you in a great way.

A)Retreat – where he spoke - Missions trip – He used you – Or opportunity to share Christ with a co-worker – They opened their heart up to Jesus

B)Have you found that those great spiritual moments – are often followed by great spiritual attacks?

1)You are not alone- Happened to Jesus too.

C)In our study on Wednesday night we ended Chapter 3 – Baptism of Jesus – it was the signal that his public ministry was about to begin.

1)Validation from Heaven – at that moment

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

D)The Father speaks: This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased!

1)The Holy Spirit descends

This was a great Spiritual moment in the life of Jesus! – Great High moment

A)Chapter 4 begins - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

B)Mark's gospel – Immediately the Spirit Drove him

1)No time to rejoice – no time to bask in the glory – no time to celebrate or enjoy the moment - - Immediately

C)Note that: V.1 Says the Spirit of God led him into the wilderness –

Mark's gospel says the Spirit Drove him – into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil.

A)This is an isolated case: The spirit of God doesn't lead us into temptation –

B)But the Spirit of God led Jesus into this situation for our benefit –

1)Because He knows the enemy is quick to attack after our victories

C)So Jesus is Driven out into the wilderness so that we can learn from His example.

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; – 1 Corinthians 10:13

D)Not ignorant of the schemes of the Devil's tactics

The Devil's tactics have not changed. 1 John 2:16

- ❖ The lust or desire of the flesh
- ❖ The lust or desire of the eyes
- ❖ The pride of life

Hear Lust – think of Desire – we hear that word – lust and we immediately think sin

A)Substitute desire – Desire my wife, - We get hungry and desire food

B)The Devil appeals to our desires

C)The Devil's tactic with Eve: Genesis 3:6

- ❖ She saw that the food was good for food – lust of the flesh
- ❖ She saw that it was pleasant to the eyes – lust of the eyes
- ❖ It was desirable to make one wise – the pride of life

The Devil's tactics haven't changed – He uses this same method on Jesus

A)The Devil and his forces use that same method on us. –

B)Devil not assigned to you or me - Small Potatoes

C)But His demons – His henchmen – Use the world – the natural desires to entice us into Sin

D)The temptation is not Sin – James 1:12 – Blessed is the man who endures temptation

1)Temptation is normal – It only becomes sin when we give into it

The Spirit of God – Drove Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted so that you and I would learn how to

ENDURE TEMPTATION.

A) LEARN from His example.

B) But not just so that we could learn from His example:

1) But also so that we would know that Jesus understands our struggle.

Hebrews 4:14,15

*¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.*

C) He is the great High Priest – who was tempted in every way as we are – yet without sin – **FULL GAMAT of Satan's assault –**

1) Yet without sin – He didn't cave in -

Wait you say: Not fair – Jesus was the God/Man – He was different.

A) Don't miss this: Jesus' response to the first temptation: -

V.4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

B) MAN – shall not live – **He is telling Satan something that is important for us to hear.**

1) He is saying: I come as a MAN – in other words I don't have to be DIVINE to beat you Satan. –

C) **I COME AS A MAN.**

1) I don't need to rely on my Divine nature –

D) I just need to be a man filled with the Holy Spirit and submitted to the word of God.

He is giving us a TEMPLATE - a model – so that you and I can stand strong in the face of temptation –

A) A TEMPLATE – SO YOU AND I CAN ENDURE!

B) Key part of this narrative that I want you to keep in mind as we work our way through it today.

1st Temptation: TURN THE STONES TO BREAD! – Limestone – looks like loaves

A) Jesus has been fasting out in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights – and V.2 says He was Hungry

B) After the first few days of fasting – your hunger and craving for food sort of dissipates –

It becomes easier to sustain for the next section of the fast.

A) But there comes a point – where the Hunger returns and if you don't eat – your body can turn on itself

C) Starts trying to live off of your vital organs and muscle tissue. Looking for nutrients somewhere

1) It is important at that juncture to begin eating

D) **Jesus is at the place – He is feeling hungry –**

1) no doubt feeling Physically weak – and that is when Satan Shows up – He knows our weaknesses and vulnerabilities

E) He is appealing to the Desire of the Flesh –

1) You are hungry – look at all those limestone rocks – turn them to bread

If (really since) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

A) God your father just said you are His beloved Son Pleased.

B) If that is true why are you out here starving to death

1) Tactic: He is trying to get Jesus to doubt God's provision. –

C) He did the same thing with Eve – If you eat – not going to die – actually you are going to be like God.

HE IS TEMPTING Jesus to take matters into His own hands –

A) **YOUR FATHER ISN'T HELPING YOU – HELP YOUR SELF!**

B) He does the same thing with us – If you are really God's child –

1) why are you going through this difficulty?

C) If you are really God's son/daughter – why are you being treated so badly – so unfairly.

D) Why are you in a LOVELESS MARRIAGE.

1) YOU don't deserve this: You DESERVE BETTER – DO SOMETHING

E) Take action: Take matters into your own hands.
1) That is what He is trying to get Jesus to do – act independently of His Father

Jesus' Response:

A) First recorded words we have of Jesus after beginning His public ministry: IT IS WRITTEN: - He points to the word.

B) Notice Jesus doesn't speak in tongues: -

C) He doesn't start singing praise Songs – The Devil hates praise music
1) Our God is an awesome God

D) He doesn't start rebuking Satan and Binding Satan – He doesn't do any of that

He says: it is Written: He turns to the Word.

A) Ephesians 6 Paul is talking about the Armor of God – The ONE offensive weapon he mentions is – **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT which is the Word**

B) Here: Jesus takes out that sword and unleashes it! - It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

C) Man shall not live: I come as a man – speaking for all men – **Key is being filled with the Spirit – and being submitted to the Word.**

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

Lesson: there is More to life than satisfying physical needs –

A) The Spiritual should always take precedence over the physical

Aa) Uniqueness of Man – Made in the image of God – Image bearers

B) **Imago Dei** – Man uniquely made to reflect God – to live in relationship with God – moral compass
1) Animals don't have that – when given a choice they also choose the physical over everything else.

Man is different: Made to live in a spiritual relationship with the Living God – {**CHRIST CAME TO RESTORE.**

A) BORN AGAIN – SPIRITUALLY ALIVE

B) The Spiritual needs to take precedence over the Physical.

1) Not saying to neglect our flesh – but most of us are more prone to feed our flesh – and neglect the spirit.

C) Jesus is wanting us to understand – The more we get the word into us – stronger our spirit gets –
1) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word....

D) Specific words for specific trials.

1) Purpose for the trials

2nd Temptation The Pinnacle V.5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, and, "In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone." "

Appeal is to the Pride of Life.

A) Tempting Jesus to make a grand entrance: -

B) There is a verse in Malachi that says when the Messiah would come he would appear at the temple.

C) The rabbi's taught when the messiah showed up

1) He would appear on the temple – Everyone would see him.

Satan is tempting Jesus – Come on – Since you are the Messiah – 30 yrs in obscurity – now is your moment.

A) Jump off – prove yourself – and it is interesting that the Devil quotes scripture here:

B) Psalm 91 - Angels will protect you.

C) Notice He misquotes the word though – He twist it

Psalm 91:11-13

For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

D) Best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself – Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

E) Trust in the Lord – In all your ways- Acknowledge Him

1) He keeps us – when we are following Him **in all our ways.**

Satan is trying to get Jesus to CREATE HIS OWN WAY – make a grand entrance

A) But Satan does not quote the whole verse:

¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.¹³

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

B) **Misquotes Scripture: Chuck Smith's son** – Spare the rod spoil the child. – All tried that ONE

C) He is trying to get Jesus to Question God's protection.

D) He does that with you and I as well- he tries to get us to assert ourselves – **“Show them how valuable you are”**

1) Overlooked for too long – you are going to miss your opportunity

E) Promote yourself. Do it YOUR WAY – YOUR PLAN!

Jesus' Response: V.7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

A) Key Phrase: The Lord – your God!

B) Your God = personal relationship – The God of the universe has made a way – Know Him – Personal relationship with Him

C) 1 John 3:1 **Behold** what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

D) Behold – Be amazed – HE IS PERSONAL – His kids

1) The World doesn't get us.

HE IS OUR GOD – But He is also the LORD!

A) If He is the Lord = Master – the one in control – I AM TO LIVE IN SUBMISSION TO HIM

B) Lesson: Knowing our identity in God – protects us from doing foolish things to promote ourselves

C) Psalm 75:6- Promotion comes from the Lord!

3rd Temptation: 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

A) Here Satan is appealing to the Desire of the eyes – He showed him the Kingdoms.

B) As if to say: This is what you have come for, right? – Reclaim the Kingdoms

C) Forfeited in the garden: Satan the god of this world.

You want the world Back? I will give it to you – just bow down and worship me!

A) Satan is trying to get Jesus to question God's plan.

B) Jesus was coming to Redeem the World – To Buy it back – but He would have to go to the Cross to do it!

1) Die in our place to pay the price of our Sin – rebellion.

C) **Revelation 5 – The Scroll** – the Title deed – Angel – Who is worthy....

1) No ONE – John weeping - Cheer up – The Lion Saw Lamb

D) Satan is offering Jesus – the World without the Cross!

Again He tries to get us to question God's plan!

A) Love your wife – lay down your life for her - SHE will fall in love with you and RESPECT YOU – put her first –

B) **Serve her – you will win her heart** – She will let you lead!

1) No – She will walk all over me – I need to show her who is the boss

C)To the wife: Respect your husband: Focus on the things that are good

1)Encourage him he will grow – NO I need to fix Him

One example: He is always trying to get us to doubt God's plan!

A)He wants us to look for Short cuts

B)But there are no short cuts to spiritual growth

Jesus' Response: 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

A)Lesson: Key Truth: Worship is a lifestyle of submission to God and His plan.

B)Not singing: Singing is born out of the lifestyle of submission

C)The worship of God protects us from embracing the worlds short cuts

Jesus came to fulfill the plan and purpose of God.

A)Redeem man – Phil 2 – He laid aside His right to be Seen as Divine.

Became a man – Glory was hidden in his humanity

B)And as a man – He made himself subject to His father – He was under the Fathers authority - "I do that which pleases the Father"

C)The Plan was death on a CROSS- to win back the world.

1)Jesus submitted himself to that plan as an ACT OF WORSHIP

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus!

A)You submit yourself to God's plan

B)You realize that You exist to Bring God glory – You serve Him

C)Lifestyle of worship -