

## **INTRO**

Matthew, today will introduce his Jewish audience to Jesus as Victorious Savior...who conquered sin...doing what Israel could not do in 40 years in the wilderness, Jesus proves HE CAN AFTER 40 days of fasting in the wilderness.....There is NO coincidence that the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the same wilderness.....

Christ is perfectly God and proved Himself to be perfectly MAN!

He was tested in all ways a human can be tested...ALL 3 WAYS....

**1John 2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **(From Satan himself)**

Jesus is NOT tempted by any run of the mill temptation, but by SATAN HIMSELF, who sought to disqualify Jesus as the perfect Lamb of God, without spot or blemish....If Satan wins THIS BATTLE he thwarts God's plan!

**BUT FIRST, BEFORE HIS TEMPTATIONS.....**

**Matt. 3:13** *Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him.*

**Three Fold witness of our Triune God at the baptism of Jesus**

<sup>16</sup> *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*

**JESUS JUST GOT BAPTIZED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST...DO YOU WONDER WHY?**

1. **Most obvious was the WITNESS of the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT in perfect harmony with the SON.** This is our *Triune* God each working together as ONE GOD for the salvation of man created in the 3-Fold image of God! (MAN, male and female=Body, Soul and Spirit)

2. **THIS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF JESUS PUBLIC MINISTRY**...Thus it was important for Jesus to be recognized publicly by His forerunner, John, the Baptist, who was the “voice crying in the wilderness” prophesied by Isaiah 40:3, who would call God’s people to repentance in preparation for their Messiah. *By baptizing Jesus, John was declaring to all that here is the One you have been waiting for*, the Son of God, the very One John had predicted would baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire”.
3. **John the Baptist, was of the tribe of Levi and a direct descendant of Aaron.** The Gospel of Luke specifies that both of John’s parents were of the Aaronic priestly line in Luke 1:5. **One of the duties of the priests in the Old Testament was to present the sacrifices before the Lord.** In other words, John the Baptist’s baptism of Jesus could be seen as a priestly presentation of the “Ultimate Sacrifice”. **DON’T MISS THIS...** John’s words the day *after* he baptized Jesus take on a very formal priestly air in the Gospel of **John 1:29: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**
4. **John recognized that he too was a sinner, in need of confessing his own sins to Jesus the Son of God** but Jesus response to John, *“Permit it at this time, for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”* **What Jesus said showed that He identified with sinners and understood our sin problem. (Righteousness wasn’t through confession of sins and Baptism...BUT through faith in the Messiah to come)** Sin is a problem that ONLY GOD THE FATHER CAN fix through the blood of His Son... Jesus was speaking to the righteousness that He alone provides to all who come to Him by FAITH and exchange *their sin for His righteousness!* **2 Corinthians 5:21** *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

## **THE TESTING OF JESUS IN “ALL” WAYS AND WHAT IT TEACHES US ABOUT TEMPTATION AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT.....**

**Heb. 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been **tempted** in all things as we are, yet without sin.

**REMEMBER THE APOSTLE JOHN TELLS US THAT ALL TEMPTATION CAN BE FIT INTO 3 CATAGORIES...**

**1John 2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world

**THE TESTS AND TRIALS WE ALL GO THROUGH, ARE NOT THE SAME AS "TEMPTATION" ....James says to embrace TESTS and TRIALS... As the Bible teaches us in 73 places says we are to FLEE TEMPTATION!!!**

**James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**AND GOD "WILL" TEST YOU BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE TO ENDURE, because that's how your faith grows, whereas TEMPTATION preceeds falling and is NEVER FROM GOD 😊**

**James 1:13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

**Just as you need Jesus SUPPORT to get through tests and trials, you are going to need His help to get you through "temptation"!!!!**

**POINT:** SINCE JESUS HAS BEEN TEMPTED IN "ALL WAYS", HE IS ABLE TO LEAD YOU SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH ANY TEMPTATION WHEN "YOU" FACE IT 😊

**1Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

## LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE 3 TEMPTATIONS OF CHRIST

### TEST 1=Lust of the eyes

*Matt. 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights He then became hungry.*

(NOTE: the connection between the failure of the Israelites for Matthew's Jewish audience, for 40 YEARS in the wilderness they failed repeatedly and is contrasted with the SUCCESS of Jesus after 40 DAYS in the same wilderness..Where Israel failed Jesus excelled to perfection, tempted in ALL WAYS **BUT** NEVER SINNED),

*<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." <sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"* WHAT DOES JESUS KNOW THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW **(WORD!)**

### TEST 2=Lust of the flesh

*Matt. 4:5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

WHAT DOES JESUS KNOW THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW? **(WORD!)**

### TEST 3=Boastful pride of life

*Matt. 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him. WHAT DOES JESUS KNOW THAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW? **(WORD!)***

**POINT:** (Your ONLY offensive weapon when under spiritual attack, even if you have all the “other” *defensive* armor on, is **WORD**!!! (Eph. 6)

### **NOW LET’S BREAK THESE 3 TEMPTATIONS DOWN**

**Everyone faces temptation daily** — not just to sin with “big sins,” but **PERHAPS** to sin with less obvious sins as well, **like in our attitude**, or the decisions we make, **or how we react to others or an event**, or the habits of the world we may have picked up along the way that are **NOT Godly**.

Jesus is going to show us **HOW** to resist temptation and **HOW TO THINK THROUGH TEMPTATION** so we can make the right choice **everyday**, not just on our **best days**.

#### **Temptation #1 — Lust of the Eyes**

*<sup>2</sup> And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights. He then became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

**The Heart of the Temptation by Satan:** “Jesus, You got to be hungry...You *have* to want to eat...you **know** you can take care of your desire and your need **right now**...there is **no sense in waiting**....After all **YOU ARE the Son of GOD**, You “**deserve**” to eat, and **NO ONE WILL KNOW** if you do this little thing  
**WHAT THIS LYING TEMPTATION FAILED TO REVEAL WAS THE QUESTION WE ALL HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES WHEN “WE” ARE TEMPTED.....**

Is this God’s will for me **RIGHT NOW** or is this simply the Lust of my flesh?

#### **Simple Question to Ask:**

“Do I **need** this right now, or do I just **want** it right now?”

Many regrets start with “I didn’t want to wait.”

#### **So Here is Some Everyday Examples**

- Clicking “buy now” instead of budgeting
- Eating or drinking to numb emotions
- Rushing into relationships out of loneliness
- Getting ahead by bending rules
- Scrolling news/social media, instead of seeking time in God’s WORD

**PRINCIPLE: WAITING ON GOD “ALWAYS” leads to a better outcome!!!!**

## **Temptation #2 — Lust of the Flesh**

*Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’*

**The Heart of the Temptation by Satan:** “Jesus, I see you know your Word ☺...So perhaps you are something special, in fact I’ll give it to you...Let’s just say you really are the Son of God, maybe you are and maybe you are not, so then let’s see you **show ME** just how special you are, come on...just between you and me...Oh wait...even **Your Word** says ‘He will command His angels concerning You’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” **Just a simple little test to show off** a little of your **super powers** if you will...and it will make you **FEEL SO GOOD!!!**

**WHAT THIS LYING TEMPTATION FAILED TO REVEAL WAS THAT SATAN THE DECIEVER *TWISTS* THE WORD of GOD TO TEMP US TO IGNORE THE CONSEQUENCES OF GIVING IN TO OUR FLESH.....AND... THAT OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER IS OPTIONAL....**

SATAN misused Scripture— not for obedience, but to encourage Jesus to take control and show off, Sadly, we can do the same thing to ourselves, misusing the Word of God to suit our sin of the moment! *This Psalm in context is about depending and trusting in God in all your ways and actions!!!*

**Satan simply took Psalm 91:11-12 omitting the words “to guard you in all your ways.”** Psalm 91:11-12 *“For He will give His angels charge concerning you, **To guard you in all your ways.** They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.*

**SIMPLY PUT SATAN WANTED JESUS TO IGNORE HIS FATHER’S WILL AND TO DO HIS OWN THING.....He tempts you to do the same thing as well...**

**QUESTION WE ALL HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES WHEN “WE” ARE TEMPTED.....**  
**Is this God’s will for me RIGHT NOW, or is this simply the Lust of my flesh?**

**Simple Question to Ask:**



**“Am I doing what I am doing now to honor God, or to impress people?”**

We often do things for applause, likes, clicks, to get an atta-boy or any other type of attention *without even realizing it*.

**Everyday Examples** *because our FLESH craves attention “before” God’s will*

- Posting on social media for validation
- Exaggerating achievements
- Serving so others notice US!
- Using Scripture to “win” arguments (Especially if taken out of context)
- Comparing ourselves to others constantly
- Seeking to get ahead by bending rules
- Scrolling the news and internet, instead of seeking time in God’s WORD

**PRINCIPLE:** In EVERYTHING you do, do it to the glory of GOD ALONE!

### **Temptation #3 — The Boastful Pride of Life**

*Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”*

**The Heart of the Temptation by Satan:** *“Jesus you don’t have to die, you don’t have to go to a cross...What are these humans to you anyway...Come on, I mean YOU ARE GOD!!!! Do you know the pain you are going to be going through on that cross you have been told to climb on to by God???.....Let’s just skip to the chase....Your Dad’s way is torture and it’s CRAZY.....Just bow down to me and let’s do this the easy way....I’ll give you EVERYTHING without the suffering....and the WHOLE WORLD will still know you are GOD!!!!!!!!”*

#### **Simple Question to Ask:**

**“What will this cost me spiritually if I choose this path before me?”**

If it costs honesty...IS IT WORTH IT?

If it costs integrity... IS IT WORTH IT?

If it costs closeness with God... IS IT WORTH IT?

**PRINCIPLE:**

Anything you gain by disobeying God will eventually be BURNT UP as LOSS!

### Why Jesus Won...

1. He used Scripture (The WORD of God), not willpower.
2. He fought from identity, not insecurity.
3. **He resisted immediately, not later.**
4. He let truth speak louder than hunger, emotion, or desire.

### Practical Modern Strategy

1. Know Scripture personally, You have got to read the Word EVERY DAY!
2. Recognize your wilderness triggers (fatigue, hunger, loneliness, pressure)
3. Fight lies with truth, not feelings
4. Don't negotiate with temptation
5. Value long-term calling over short-term satisfaction