

Matthew 4:1-11

- REVIEW...

- o Birth of Jesus...
 - After these things [Matthew does not record the birth of Jesus]
 - Wise men [μάγοι] came to WORSHIP the new King of the Jews [three gifts]
 - After the death of Herod – they returned – but settled in Nazareth!
- o John the Baptist...
 - The Gospel of Matthew picks up almost 28 years later - **Luke 3:23**
 - It began with a man called John the Baptist – who came in the Spirit of Elijah...
 - He preached a message of REPENTANCE – to prepare people to receive Jesus...
 - Baptizing them in the Jordan River – outward symbol of an inward change!
- o Baptism of Jesus...
 - Jesus was baptized by John – officially beginning the Ministry of Jesus...
 - When He came up out of the water – the Spirit came down on Him...
 - And the Father spoke [Trinity] - this is my Beloved Son – in whom I am well pleased...
 - Pleased because Jesus would become the ONLY sacrifice that He would accept for SIN!

- 1ST – THE TEMPTATION... vs. 1-2

- o 1st – The Spirit... vs. 1
 - Immediately...
 - Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness!
 - Immediately [there was not gap] after the Baptism of Jesus – **Mark 1:12**
 - After the Baptism of Jesus – the Spirit LED Him into the WILDERNESS!
 - LED [ἀνάγω] – sailing term – when a ship raises its sails and is blown [passive] by the WIND...
 - The ship has no control over where it is going – it is at the MERCY of the WIND!
 - The Trap...
 - The SPIRIT [πνεύματος] like the wind - blew Jesus into a DRY and DESOLATE desert...
 - It would have been there that Jesus would be TRIED – he would face the enemy ALONE...
 - But the question has to be asked – WHY would the SPIRIT lead Jesus into a TRAP!
 - A lot of people want to be used by the Lord...
 - But they do not realize that they FIRST must be prepared by the Lord...
 - And the ONLY way for God to get us ready – is through TRIALS...
 - Therefore the Holy Spirit will BLOW us into TRAPS – so we can be TRIED!
 - The Example...
 - If the Children of Israel had not been caught between Egypt and the Red Sea – **Exodus 14:13**
 - They never could have seen their God was able to part an ocean!
 - If we always had enough money – we would never see the Lord provide...
 - If we were always healthy - we could never see the Lord miraculously heal...
 - It is through our TRIALS – that we get to see God do a work in our LIVES...
 - And that prepares us to step out in FAITH – and believe in our God who does the IMPOSSIBLE!
- o 2nd – The Devil... vs. 1
 - To be tempted by the devil!
 - Our ENEMY has many names – we will see THREE of them just in this passage...
 - FIRST – the DEVIL [διάβολος] – meaning to throw [βάλλω] accusations at others...
 - The DEVIL is going to try THREE times to find something to ACCUSE Jesus of...
 - He will TEMPT Him with HUNGER – FAME – and the EASY way out!

- The full time job of our ENEMY is to bring accusations against us...
- He will TEMPT us to see if can get us to STUMBLE and fall...
- And the moment we do – he quickly tattles to God [as if He did not know]
- The good news is God knows we are FAILURES – that is why Jesus came to DIE for our SINS!
- **Romans 8:33** – “Who will bring any [accusation] against [us]? It is God who justifies!” [NIV]
- o 3rd – Forty days... vs. 2
 - Fasting...
 - When [Jesus] had fasted forty days and forty nights - afterward He was hungry!
 - Jesus spent FORTY days in the DESERT – eating NOTHING [but He did have water]
 - The longest recorded FAST lasted for 392 days [Angus Barbieri]
 - So there is no question Jesus could have fasted for FORTY days!
 - Fasting is often misunderstood - NOT for weight loss – it is about what we do with our TIME...
 - Although Fasting is not required – it is a powerful tool - **Matthew 6:16**
 - Fasting is not just FOOD – we can fast from SOCIAL media – TV – Video games...
 - We take the TIME that we SAVE - and we spend it with God...
 - Fasting is a way to deny our FLESH and focus on the SPIRIT!
 - Trials...
 - We always see the number FORTY relating to TRIALS or testing...
 - Noah - Moses in Midian - Children of Israel wandering – to name a few...
 - And we can be assured that just like Jesus - Noah - Moses – and Israel – TRIALS are coming!
 - Jesus gave the promise - In this life we will have TRIBULATION – **John 16:33**
 - The Gospel is not a message of an easy life - it is about eternal life!
 - But God uses our TRIALS to teach us to focus on the Him in this life!
- 2ND – FIRST TEMPTATION... vs. 3-4
 - o 1st – Hunger... vs. 3
 - The Tempter...
 - Now when the tempter came to Him!
 - TEMPTER - SECOND of THREE names we see for our enemy...
 - TEMPTER [ὁ πειράζων] - the word TEMPTATION and TRIAL are the same word [Greek]
 - TRIAL – is a TEST from God – but a TEMPTATION is not from God...
 - We will all have to face TEMPTATIONS - but God is NEVER the source!
 - **James 1:13** – “God cannot be tempted by evil - nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”
 - Temptations come from either our ENEMY – or from our SIN – **James 1:14**
 - Which makes the example of Jesus VERY important to us...
 - Because He will show us – how do we overcome TEMPTATION!
 - Son of God...
 - He said - If You are the Son of God!
 - We assume the DEVIL [Lucifer] – was a fallen ANGEL – **Isaiah 14:12**
 - Would KNOW exactly who Jesus is – because Jesus created him...
 - Yet here he seems to be asking - IF Jesus really is the SON of God...
 - But it would be better interpreted – SINCE [indicative] – You ARE the Son of God!
 - Power...
 - Command that these stones become bread!
 - The DEVIL commanded [imperative] Jesus to turn STONES into BREAD...
 - There was NO doubt Jesus could do it – He created the ROCKS [all things] – **John 1:3**
 - And He was HUNGRY – after NOT eating for FORTY days...
 - But the TEMPTATION was for Jesus to depend on His POWER – rather than on God!
 - There are always TWO options when it comes to handling a problem...

- We can rely on OUR strength - or we can put our TRUST in the Lord...
- Now while Jesus is God – and could turn stones into bread...
- We do NOT have that kind of power – and are wise NOT to rely on OUT ability!

o 2nd – It is written... vs. 4

- The Word...
 - [Jesus] answered and said - It is written!
 - It is WRITTEN – Jesus did not have answer the question...
 - It had already been answered [perfect] – by the Word of God...
 - But Jesus did need to KNOW where to find the ANSWER!
 - **II Timothy 2:15** – “Study to show yourself approved... rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- Not just Physical...
 - Man shall not live by bread alone – but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!
 - Jesus quoted from the LAW – **Deuteronomy 8:6**
 - Moses reminded Israel - God ALLOWED them to go HUNGRY [in the Wilderness]
 - So that He could then provide them with MANA [what is it] from Heaven...
 - Teaching them that men will NOT live [future] just by eating BREAD...
 - What they needed was to LISTEN to what God said...
 - Because when they OBEYED the LORD – He provided for their every NEED!
 - The world ONLY thinks about TODAY – they chase after FOOD...
 - That is why they are AFRAID of what will happen TOMORROW...
 - But we do NOT need to worry about TOMORROW – because we TRUST in God...
 - Who PROMISES us that He will take care of EVERY need – as we SEEK Him first!
 - **Luke 12:29-31** – “Do not be concerned about what to eat... Do not worry [instead] ...Seek the Kingdom of God above all else - and He will give you everything you need.” [NLT]

• 3RD – SECOND TEMPTATION... vs. 5-7

o 1st – Fame... vs. 5

- Then the devil took Him up into the holy city - set Him on the pinnacle of the temple!
- The DEVIL took Jesus to Jerusalem [Holy City] - to the PINNACLE of the Temple!
- PINNACLE – thought to be the southwest corner of the Temple Mount...
- It sits over FIFTY meters above what we call the WESTERN wall today...
- Jewish Priest would stand there to call [shofar] Israel to prayer...
- The KEY is it was a VERY public place – a MIRACLE there would get the attention of EVERYONE...
- The TEMPTATION was to try and win people over with SIGNS and WONDERS!
- There is a very real danger to following SIGNS and WONDERS...
- Satan can do impressive things – he has power and uses it to DECEIVE...
- He will be so convincing in the Tribulation – ONLY believers will not be fooled – **Matthew 24:24**
- That is why we must KNOW the TRUTH - by being men and women of the Word...
- Jesus Word is the Truth – it is how we know the TRUTH from a LIE - **John 17:17**

o 2nd – Misquoting... vs. 6

- [The devil] said to [Jesus] - Since You are the Son of God - throw Yourself down!
- For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you.
- In their hands they shall bear you up - lest you dash your foot against a stone!
- SINCE Jesus is the SON – the DEVIL commanded [imperative] He jump from the PINNACLE...
- WHY – because of what was WRITTEN – using the same phrase Jesus had just used...
- The DEVIL quotes from **Psalms 91:11-12**
- Now while it is TRUE – that God does use His angels to PROTECT us – **Psalms 34:7**
- The problem with the quote – is that God never tells us to JUMP off a building!
- When the SERPENT [enemy] came to even in the Garden of Eden...

- He misquoted the Word of God [do not eat from ANY tree] – then questioned God – **Genesis 3:1**
- Our ENEMY knows the Word of God - and he is willing to misuse it...
- He will misquote it – and take the WORD out of CONTEXT - so he can confuse people...
- This is what causes most errant doctrines - cults - and untold confusion about the Bible ...
- People will misquote the Word of God – take it out of CONTEXT...
- We need to be wise - get into the Word of God – and see if what they said is true!
- **Acts 17:11** - “They searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”
- o 3rd – It is Written... vs. 7
 - The Word...
 - Jesus said to him - It is written again!
 - It is WRITTEN – for the SECOND time Jesus did not have answer the question...
 - It had already been answered [perfect] – by the Word of God!
 - Do not tempt...
 - You shall not tempt the LORD your God!
 - Do not TEMP [πειράζω] the LORD [יהוה] – who is your God – **Deuteronomy 6:16**
 - When Moses was preparing Israel to finally enter the Promised Land after FORTY years...
 - He reminded them of how they had TEMPTED the LORD at Massah...
 - Israel had seen God part an OCEAN - so they walked through on dry land...
 - They walked out every morning to see MANNA - and had food to eat...
 - Yet when there was no WATER – they questioned the LORD!
 - **Exodus 17:7** – “They tempted the LORD saying - is the LORD among us or not?”
 - People do NOT change – we have the tendency to TEMP God...
 - No matter how FAITHFUL the Lord has been for us in the PAST - we QUESTION Him today...
 - As if somehow God has changed - He took care of us before - but maybe not this time...
 - But God has always been with us - and He always will be!
 - **Hebrews 13:5** - “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
 - Double meaning...
 - This may well have a DOUBLE meaning to it...
 - This could also be interpreted as a warning to the DEVIL...
 - Because God was with him – and He should NOT be trying to TEMP [πειράζω] the LORD!
- 4th – EASY WAY... vs. 8-11
 - o 1st – The World... vs. 8-9
 - Worship... vs. 8
 - Again - the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain.
 - And showed [Jesus] all the kingdoms of the world and their glory!
 - [Devil] said to Him - All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me!
 - The FINAL temptation took place on a very HIGH Mountain...
 - From here the DEVIL showed Jesus every kingdom of the world [vision]
 - The DEVIL offered to give them all to Jesus – if He would worship him...
 - This would have been a REAL temptation – because Jesus came to PURCHASE the world...
 - The DEVIL was offering to give it to Jesus – without having to DIE on the cross!
 - Title Deed...
 - Jesus did NOT argue that the whole world belonged to the DEVIL...
 - When God created the world He gave the DEED of the earth to Adam - **Genesis 1:28-30**
 - But when Adam and Eve choose to SIN in the garden - **Genesis 3**
 - The DEED of the world was given to satan - **II Corinthians 4:4** - **John 14:30**
 - The Right way...
 - **Luke 4:6** – “This has been delivered to me - and I give it to whomever I wish.”

- But Jesus was not about to take the SHORT cut to reclaim the Title DEED...
 - He knew the RIGHT way – was to purchase it through the CROSS!
 - **Revelation 5:9** – “You are worthy to take the [deed] ...For You were slain.”
 - The other day we did an outreach to some kids...
 - And the store we purchased the eggs from forgot to charge us...
 - It would have been easy to think – FREE eggs for Jesus – but it would not have be RIGHT!
 - We will often be TEMPTED with the idea the ENDS justify the MEANS...
 - If the outcome is GOOD – then it does NOT matter how we get there...
 - But that is a LIE – it is as much about the journey as the destination!
- o 2nd – It is Written... vs. 10
- Satan...
 - Then Jesus said to him - Away with you - Satan!
 - Jesus had enough – He commanded [imperative] SATAN to leave [ὑπάγω]
 - SATAN – the THIRD and FINAL name we see for our enemy...
 - It comes from the Hebrews word [שָׂטָן] – it simply means our ADVERSARY!
 - Satan is our ENEMY – like a roaring lion he seeks to devour us - **I Peter 5:8**
 - Satan is the DEVIL – who wants to see us condemned to hell - **Revelation 12:10**
 - Satan is the TEMPER – who tries to get us to STUMBLE in our walk...
 - But we have been given the POWER to overcome him!
 - Serve God...
 - For it is written - You shall worship the LORD your God - and Him only you shall serve!
 - It is WRITTEN – for the FINAL time Jesus went to the Word of God – **Deuteronomy 6:13**
 - But He did CHANGE one word – from FEAR [אָרָר] to WORSHIP [προσκυνέω]
 - When we WORSHIP the LORD – we no longer have any reason to FEAR...
 - Our ENEMY has no power over us – he has been defeated!
 - **I Corinthians 15:57** – “God... gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- o 3rd – Victory... vs. 11
- Devil flees...
 - Then the devil left Him - behold - angels came and ministered to [Jesus]!
 - Jesus was TEMPTED – but THREE times He responded with the WORD...
 - And the RESULT was that the DEVIL had to FLEE...
 - Jesus showed us how to have VICTORY over the TEMPTER!
 - The key to standing against satan is the Bible...
 - He is powerless when we come against him with the power of the WORD!
 - **James 4:7** – “Resist [imperative] the devil and he will flee from you!”
 - For a season...
 - **Luke 4:13** – “The devil... departed from Him [till the next] time.”
 - Satan was not done – he would come again THREE years later...
 - When he possessed Judas – leading him to betray Jesus – **Luke 22:3**
 - We need to remember victory TODAY – does not mean there will be no battle TOMORROW...
 - We will be at WAR with our ENEMY till the day we go to Heaven...
 - But the GOOD news – is one day we JUDGE [accuse] the DEVIL – **I Corinthians 6:3**
 - And we will MOCK satan [enemy] – the one who sought to STUMBLE [tempt] us!
 - **Isaiah 14:16** – “Is this the [one] who made the earth tremble.”