## Matthew 4:1-11

## • Review...

- o Birth of Jesus...
  - After these things [Matthew does not record the birth of Jesus]
  - Wise men  $[\mu \dot{\alpha} \gamma o \varsigma]$  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!

## • $1^{ST}$ - The Temptation... vs. 1-2

- o  $1^{st}$  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  $[\dot{\alpha}\nu\dot{\alpha}\gamma\omega]$  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...
    - ullet The SPIRIT [πνεύματος] like the wind blew Jesus into a DRY and DESOLATE desert...
    - It would was 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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...
  - FRIST the DEVIL  $[\delta \iota \acute{\alpha} \beta o \lambda o \varsigma]$  meaning to throw  $[\beta \acute{\alpha} \lambda \lambda \omega]$  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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!
- $2^{ND}$  First Temptation... vs. 3-4
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Hunger... vs. 3
    - The Tempter...
      - Now when the tempter came to Him!
      - TEMPTER SECOND of THREE names we see for our enemy...
      - ullet ΤΕΜΡΤΕR [ὁ πειράζων] the word TEMΡΤΑΤΙΟΝ 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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]
- 3<sup>RD</sup> SECOND TEMPTATION... vs. 5-7
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 angles to PROTECT us Psalm 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [יְהֹנָה] 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 [ $\pi$ ειράζω] the LORD!
- $4^{TH}$  Easy Way... vs. 8-11
  - o  $1^{st}$  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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [שֶּׂטֶר] 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 [מֵרֵא] 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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."