

## ***Righteousness and Temptation***

*Matthew 4:1-11* - NCBC, April 7, 2019

Main Point: **By overcoming temptation God's Son secures the perfect righteousness of His kingdom.**

- The testing of perfect righteousness (1-2)
- The temptation to doubt God's provision (3-4)
- The temptation to distort God's promises (5-7)
- The temptation to disobey God's plan (8-10)
- The triumph of perfect righteousness (11)

Application: **Confidently draw near to God's throne of grace (Hebrews 4:15-16)**

### **Opening Announcements:**

- Parent/Child Dedication – Dobbins Family (2<sup>nd</sup> Svc)
- Great family-friendly outreach opportunity: Easter Egg Hunt – 10 AM next Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> Rain or shine!

<<On Christ the Solid Rock>>

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We don't stand firm in our own strength, but in the Spirit of the Living Christ! Thank you for singing out that truth this morning.

Today our Bibles are open to **Matthew chapter 4**, as we continue our worship together.



If you don't have a Bible, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you to use in our service together, and even take home as our gift to you.

And while you're preparing to read from **Matthew chapter 4**, just a friendly reminder to keep praying for

**Associate Pastor of Care & Discipleship**  
Shaun & Cristi Lewis, Julia (14), Caleb (11), Claire (8)

**Special Schedule!**  
**April 28, 2019**

**9:00a** Sunday School & Adult Electives  
**10:15a** Worship & Baptisms  
**11:30a** Church Vote

Congregational Vote **Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>!**

the Lewis family as Shaun plans to preach here the week after Easter before receiving our vote of affirmation as our new Associate Pastor of Care & Discipleship!

**Please note the different schedule for April 28<sup>th</sup>** – all children and adult Sunday School and electives will start a half-hour earlier than normal – at **9am**, then we will have one combined worship service at **10:15am**, followed immediately by a short meeting and vote.

Please keep praying for the Lewis family!

And pray for God to bring a spiritual revival in our communities this Easter!

**Let's Reach Farther Together!**  
**Easter Sunday is April 21<sup>st</sup>**

JOIN US THIS  
**Easter**  
Start Your Easter at New Castle Bible Church  
**8:00 or 10:45am**

Easter is still a time when our unchurched neighbors are more open to go to church. So invite someone to come to church with you! Use as many invite cards as you need, take a yard sign, update your social media. The point is, pray that God will give you an opportunity to witness of His goodness and grace these next two weeks...and then humbly step out in faith and share when He gives you an opportunity!

All of us need to be sharing our faith in Christ regularly with others if we are to grow and mature in Christ.

**Let's Reach Farther Together!**  
**Easter Sunday is April 21<sup>st</sup>**

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, **that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He... Isaiah 43:10**

JOIN US THIS  
**Easter**  
Start Your Easter at New Castle Bible Church  
**8:00 or 10:45am**

In **Isaiah chapter 43** God tells Israel, *You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen...* and we would expect the rest of the verse to say, “so that the world may know and believe me.” But that’s not what He says is it?

God has called you to be His witness so that *you may know and believe God and understand* He is truly God!! Isn’t that marvelous? God uses your witnessing of Him to actually help you know Him better!

So don’t miss this two-week window of opportunity before Easter. Simply humbly ask others, “Do you have plans for Easter this year? Would you like to come to church with me?”

Pray for God to use you. Pray for God to bring spiritual revival to all of us this Easter.



Spiritual revival occurs whenever God’s Spirit grants righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. And this morning we consider the righteousness of Christ demonstrated through temptation in **Matthew 4**.

Please stand in honor of the reading of God’s Word. To capture the immediate context let’s start reading back at **Matthew 3, verse 16**:

*And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” **4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup> 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 I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.*

This is God’s Word. Please be seated.

## Let's Pray.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW				
1-3 Presentation of the King				
4-7 Proclamation of the King <i>Sermon on the Mount (5-7)</i>	8-10 Power of the King <i>Sending out the 12 Apostles (10)</i>	11-13 Rejection of the King <i>Kingdom Parables (13)</i>	14-20 Priorities of the King <i>Topsy-Turvy Values (18)</i>	21-25 Progress of the King <i>Olivet Discourse (24-25)</i>
Kingdom offered to Israel		Kingdom offered to all Nations		
26-28 Passion & Proof of the King				

The first three chapters of Matthew present Jesus as the long-awaited King coming to reign over God's people.

From the first verse of this book, Jesus is presented as *the Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham*. In **1:21**, *you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*. In **chapter 2 verse 2**, Jesus is *the King of the Jews* – the long-awaited shepherd ruler for God's people.<sup>1</sup> In **chapter 3** God's Spirit anoints Jesus at his baptism, and a voice from heaven says, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

There can be no doubt about it! God presents Jesus as His own Son – sent as the Messiah – the Deliverer of God's people from sin. Jesus is presented as the Heavenly King coming to establish His earthly kingdom!<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 2:6

<sup>2</sup> Daniel 2:44

But is Jesus really the Son of God? Can He really live up to the hype? How will He withstand the attacks of both human and spiritual enemies?

To help answer these questions Matthew reveals Jesus' triumph through temptation in **Matthew 4**. The Son of God is tested with everything Satan can throw at Him, and still stands victorious!

So please understand – while Jesus' handling of temptation is a good example for us to follow in our temptations, the purpose of **Matthew 4** is not just to teach us how to fight temptations. Jesus' triumph is so much more than just an example!



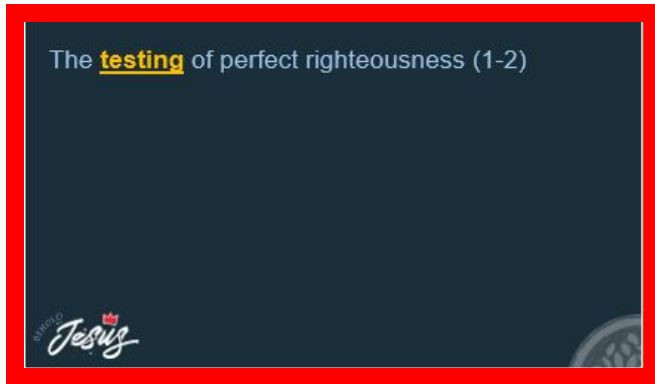
**By overcoming temptation God's Son secures the perfect righteousness of His kingdom.**

At His baptism Jesus accepted His God-given mission to bring righteousness to sinners.<sup>3</sup> Jesus came to shepherd sinners and bestow God's righteousness to them. But this righteousness had to be proven, demonstrated, and

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 3:15

tested.

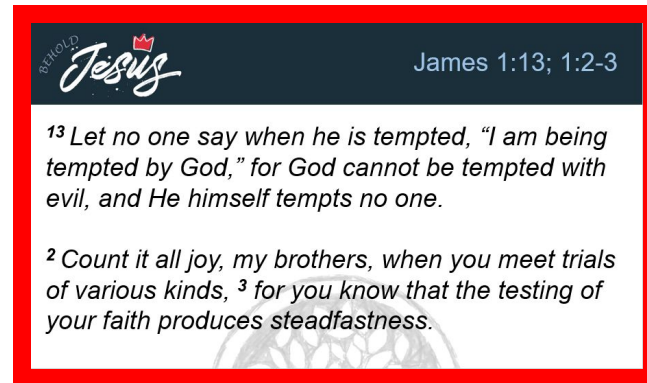
And so **Matthew 4** immediately follows Jesus' baptism with the words,  
*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*



You see, the temptation of Jesus was a God-ordained, Spirit-led **testing of perfect righteousness**.

Now this raises a question, doesn't it? **Verse 1** clearly says that the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. So does God tempt us to sin?

The biblical answer is a resounding "No."



**James 1:13** clearly states, *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one.*

God never tempts you to do evil. Temptations to sin always come from the sinful desires of our own hearts<sup>4</sup> or demonic influences.<sup>5</sup> But our Heavenly Father will *test* us so that we can become mature and complete.

**Verses 2 of James 1** teach us to *Count it all joy ... when you meet trials*. **1 Peter 4** teaches us to *entrust our souls to a faithful Creator when we suffer according to God's will*.

Therefore, while God will never tempt you to do evil, He will test you to grow and mature you.<sup>6</sup> From God's perspective **Matthew 4** was a necessary and genuine test of Jesus' righteousness. From Satan's perspective, Satan was really tempting Jesus to sin. But even what

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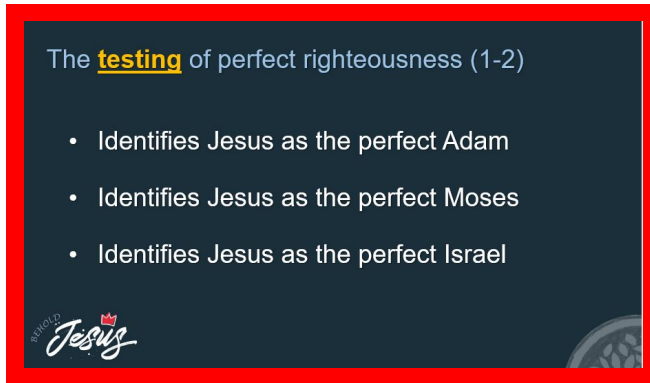
<sup>4</sup> James 1:14

<sup>5</sup> Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10

<sup>6</sup> C.f. God's testing of Job in Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6; Abraham in Genesis 22

Satan means for evil, God is able to sovereignly use for our good and growth.<sup>7</sup>

So then in **Matthew 4**, God leads King Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days of testing – to prove that He was righteous exactly where others had failed!



Remember Adam and Eve gave in to Satan’s temptations in the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden.<sup>8</sup> But now, the last Adam – the perfect man – Jesus endures the same temptations and triumphs! Where Adam fell, Jesus stands!

As Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before receiving the law,<sup>9</sup> Jesus now fasts for 40 days and nights and then fulfills the law in perfect righteousness!

This wilderness test also identifies Jesus as the better Israel. In **Exodus**, God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that,

<sup>7</sup> C.f. Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28-29

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 3:1-6

<sup>9</sup> Exodus 34:2, 28; Deuteronomy 9:9, 18

*Israel is my firstborn son ... Let my son go that he may serve me.*<sup>10</sup> Now, at Jesus’ baptism God publicly declares that Jesus is His beloved Son. Jesus is the true Son of God who obeys all the Father commands! Where Israel fell into idolatry and complaining in the wilderness, Jesus also must be tested with hunger.

So let’s consider each of these temptations now to establish how God’s Son secures the perfect righteousness of His kingdom.

At first glance, it could be difficult for us to relate to these temptations. After all, when is the last time you were tempted to turn stones into food?

But as we take a closer look, we see that Satan’s tactics haven’t changed much since **Genesis 3**. These three temptations are actually the same categorical temptations that Adam faced, that Israel faced, and that you and I still face today. So praise God for a King who has secured our righteousness by refusing to sin when He was tempted in all points like us!<sup>11</sup>

Satan’s first temptation for Jesus is found in **verse 3**, and I believe it’s fundamentally,

<sup>10</sup> Exodus 4:22-23; c.f. Hosea 11:1 which refers to Israel as God’s Son and is prophetically applied to Christ in Matthew 2:15.

<sup>11</sup> Hebrews 4:14-15

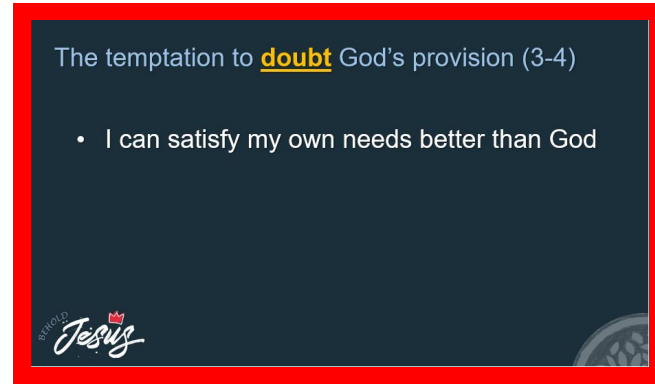


**A temptation to doubt God's provision.**

In **verse 3**, *the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."*

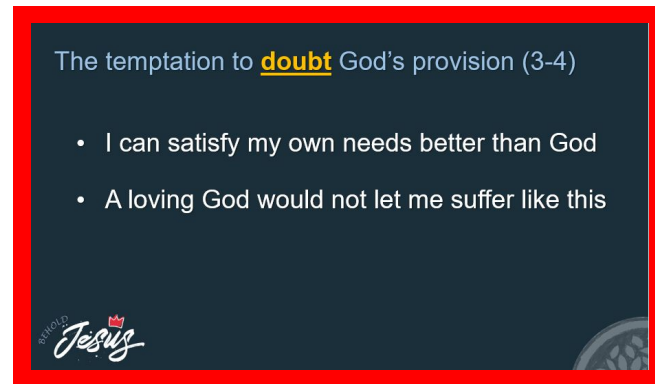
Now Satan knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Heaven's voice had testified to this reality at His baptism. So it seems best to understand the "if" as "since." Since you are God's Son, why are you so hungry? Why are you allowing yourself to endure such affliction here in the wilderness? Is this really how the Son of God should live? Why don't you just take matters into your own hands and care for your own needs?

This was a temptation to serve self. To live by the lust of the flesh. This temptation cries out,



**I can satisfy my own needs better than God.**

You see, at its core, this temptation is actually the same temptation that Satan brought to Eve in the Garden. *Did God actually say you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?*<sup>12</sup> Can you really trust God?



**A loving God would not let me suffer like this.**

Loved ones, this is where all temptation begins. Doubting the goodness of God. Doubting that God will

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<sup>12</sup> Genesis 3:1

provide for me. Doubting that His Word is trustworthy, and doubting that God really loves me.

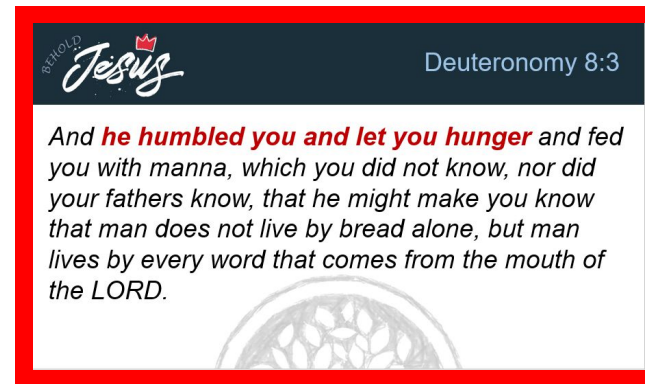
A thankful heart does not quickly give into temptation.<sup>13</sup>

But when we get into distress: when the leg cramps won't let us sleep at night, when the business is failing, when the doctors don't know how to help us anymore, when the marriage just seems to get harder, and we're just "hangry" living in what seems to be never-ending wilderness heat ...that's when Satan likes to come and whisper, "How can God truly be good and love me if I am experiencing this much pain for this long?"

The Israelites failed this temptation with all their grumbling and murmuring, didn't they? But where Israel fell, Jesus stands firm, responding to Satan's deceptive offer with Scripture:

*But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Jesus quotes from,



**Deuteronomy 8:3**, where Moses taught the Israelites why God allowed them to hunger in the wilderness:

*God humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*

Now don't miss this. His point is not that Bible study is more important than eating. His point is that God's Word is so good and trustworthy that obeying God always trumps any physical needs that seem more important in the moment.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Ephesians 5:4, 20  
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<sup>14</sup> I'm thankful to a message by D.A. Carson on The Gospel Coalition which helped me to understand this point.



The temptation to **doubt** God's provision (3-4)

- I can satisfy my own needs better than God
- A loving God would not let me suffer like this
- BUT, God's Word always reveals God's best

Jesus

God's Word always reveals God's best for me. No matter how I feel, God's commandments always bring life, not death.<sup>15</sup>

Therefore, whenever life's pressures tempt you to doubt God's love for you, hold fast to God's Word!

Temptations to doubt the sufficiency or timing of God's provision for us is quite common: For example when you are tempted to marry an unbeliever – after all he or she seems moral enough, and how long does God expect me to wait to find a believing spouse? Or maybe you're tempted to cut corners on your taxes, or inflate your sales numbers since obviously you deserve more rewards.

O church take heart – our righteous King doesn't live for Himself. He doesn't give in to the lust of the flesh. As legitimately hungry as He was in this moment, He still trusts and obeys God's Word.

Now let me press this a bit: to live by bread alone means to live by what satisfies my own appetite. To live according to what I want in the moment.

But at its most basic core, to live by the Word of God – to live by faith – is to believe that God is good. Faith is love for God.<sup>16</sup> So if you do not love God, or believe God is good, then you cannot be saved!

Let me say it a different way: When's the last time you said "no" to something you really wanted, simply out of obedience to God's Word? Have you ever made a decision that really goes against what you would want for yourself, simply to obey God's Word?

This is what it means to live by faith. To trust God more than yourself. To live by every word that comes out of God's mouth!

To obey God's Word necessarily requires death to self. Self-denial is a test of all genuine faith, and the crux of every temptation. Will I believe that God is to be trusted, even when it looks like I'd be better off serving my own interests my own way?

Even in His profound hunger, Jesus trusts God to supply all His needs.<sup>17</sup> Righteousness lives by faith in God's Word, and thus Jesus refuses to doubt God's goodness. Now interestingly when Jesus uses Scripture to overcome Satan's first temptation, the tempter responds with **Psalm 91**. Satan can quote the Bible too!

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<sup>15</sup> John 12:50

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<sup>16</sup> 1 Peter 1:8

<sup>17</sup> Philippians 4:18



And this is a temptation to distort God's promises.

**Verses 5 and 6** describe how Satan took Jesus, likely in some kind of a vision, to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem,<sup>18</sup> and tempted Him saying,

*Since you are the Son of the God, throw yourself down. When all the people see how God saves you, then they will know you are God's Messiah! After all, you say you live by God's Word, and doesn't **Psalm 91** say that,*

*“He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”<sup>19</sup>*

This is a temptation to twist God's Word for personal advantage. This is the lust of the eye. I demand God makes His presence visible now! This temptation,

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<sup>18</sup> May have been as high as 450 feet above the ground according to some commentators!

<sup>19</sup> Partially quoted from Psalm 91:11-12



Believes **God ultimately exists to serve me.**

I can manipulate His promises for my own personal advantage. Just use God's Word – it's the secret to forcing God to help you get what you want. Name it and claim it!



**Demand supernatural shortcuts and power.** I don't need to do the patient work of waiting on God, learning obedience through suffering, or seeking biblical wisdom. Just demand signs and wonders from God's Word! Take the short-cut Jesus!

But this temptation cheapens faith into self-serving presumption. Makes God a personalized genie who exists solely to serve me. Instead of submitting to God's Word, I use God's Word to just get what I really want.

Do you ever do this? Quoting Scripture in your prayers to demand God give you what you want? Demanding a sensational sign so you know He is still with you? Or knowingly putting yourself in a place of temptation while claiming God will not let you fall?<sup>20</sup> If we're honest we all test God in some ways.

But Jesus responds, *"Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*



God should not be tested with His Word.

Contrary to Satan who rips **Psalm 91** out of its context,<sup>21</sup> Jesus quotes from **Deuteronomy 6:16**, which actually refers back to **Exodus 17** when the Israelites tested God,

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<sup>20</sup> Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 10:12

<sup>21</sup> It is been wisely repeated for years, "A text without its context is a pretext for a prooftext."

by saying, *"Is the Lord among us or not?"* If He is... then He'll prove it by giving us water to satisfy us right now!<sup>22</sup> Where Israel failed, Jesus proved His righteousness. Righteousness never uses God's Word for selfish purposes. God is not our servant. Even the Son of God doesn't seek His own will, but the will of His Father.<sup>23</sup>

So in a final attempt to destroy Jesus in sin, Satan suggests a blatant,



temptation to disobey God's plan.

**Verses 8 and 9** are almost laughable when you stop and consider the insanity of sin. Here's Satan showing Jesus all the kingdoms of the world – likely in a vision again – and claiming to give all their glory to Jesus if Jesus will just agree to worship him.

Now remember, God had already given His Son all the nations as His inheritance.<sup>24</sup> He crowned Jesus King at

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<sup>22</sup> Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>23</sup> John 4:34; 6:38

<sup>24</sup> Psalm 2:8; 22:27; Daniel 7:14; Revelation 11:15

His baptism.<sup>25</sup> These kingdoms weren't Satan's to give, nor would he be able to deliver on his promise even if Jesus took his demonic offer. What a picture of the deceitful and lying insanity of sin for all Christians today!

In Christ, we have been made joint-heirs with Christ!<sup>26</sup>  
We are already seated with Him in heavenly places.<sup>27</sup>  
We have been adopted.<sup>28</sup> Forgiven.<sup>29</sup> Granted an eternal inheritance of joy and blessedness in Christ!<sup>30</sup>

And yet, the boastful pride of life listens to Satan's lies.<sup>31</sup>  
We are tempted by the glitter of instant gratification, money, and power.



We foolishly believe **I can get the crown without the cross.** Why wait for heavenly glory when I could have

fame and fortune right here and now? Don't you know Eve that when you eat this fruit you will be like God?<sup>32</sup>

This is a temptation to deviate from God's plan. You can afford to disobey just this once since,



**The end will justify the means.** You're going to rule over all the nations someday anyway Jesus. This is just a little short-cut around all kinds of suffering and servitude.

As long as I make a large donation to my church, God will wink at my inflated sales numbers this year. As long as my spouse doesn't find out, my porn habit won't hurt anyone.

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<sup>25</sup> Matthew 3:17

<sup>26</sup> Romans 8:17; Galatians 4:7

<sup>27</sup> Ephesians 2:6

<sup>28</sup> Romans 8:14-16

<sup>29</sup> 1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Colossians 1:14

<sup>30</sup> 1 Peter 1:4; Colossians 1:12

<sup>31</sup> John 8:44

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<sup>32</sup> Genesis 3:4-5



But God alone deserves the worship of our heart.

This is Jesus' final answer as He commands Satan to leave.

*For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve."<sup>33</sup>*

Adam, Israel, and you and I all rob God of His glory by exalting ourselves and breaking the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment every time we sin. But Jesus – although He was tempted in every way like us – never sinned.

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<sup>33</sup> Matthew 4:10; c.f. Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20  
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The triumph of His perfect righteousness is seen in **verse 11**.

*Then the devil left him... Righteousness triumphs!*

Satan would return later in Jesus' life with more temptations.<sup>34</sup> But for now, the righteousness of God's Son had been fully established. Jesus had proven Himself sinless in every way others had failed!

It's interesting that,



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<sup>34</sup> Luke 4:13; Matthew 16:23; Luke 22:28; c.f. Matthew 26:36-46 in light of Hebrews 2:18

**1 John 2** charges us to not love the world. And then listen to this summary,

*For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh, and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world.*

Jesus overcame the desires of the flesh by refusing to doubt God's provision. Jesus overcame the desires of the eyes by refusing to distort God's promises. And Jesus overcame the pride of life by refusing to disobey God and deviate from His plan. What perfect righteousness is secured for us by God's Son!

*And behold, look at this! Angels came and were ministering to Jesus.*

God did care for Jesus after all! God did love Him – even though He subjected Him to this time of testing – Heavenly hosts were waiting for Jesus at the end of His test to strengthen and encourage Him. God's goodness and faithful provision can be trusted. His promises are sure. His plan is best. Therefore **Matthew 4** teaches that,



By overcoming temptation, God's Son secures the perfect righteousness of His kingdom.

His proven righteousness now paves the way for His journey to the cross where He will take our place and die the death our sins deserve – so that we can be made the righteousness of God in Him!<sup>35</sup>

The death of Christ in your place makes no sense without the triumph of Christ over Satan in **Matthew 4!** But because King Jesus is perfectly righteous, today sinners like us can,



Confidently draw near to God's throne of grace.

Whenever I'm tempted to doubt that God loves me and will provide everything I need... I must renew my mind with God's Gospel promises. *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword...*<sup>36</sup> It is God's Word that protects me from Satan's deceitful lies! It is God's Gospel that reminds me who I truly am before God. Satan no longer has any power over me!<sup>37</sup> Satan's lies always overpromise and underdeliver.

It is by the washing of God's Word that I'm reminded that *we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*<sup>38</sup>

Dear friends – never confuse the worldly riches for spiritual riches. Do not put God to the test. Come to an

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<sup>36</sup> Hebrews 4:12

<sup>37</sup> Romans 6:6-7, 20

<sup>38</sup> Hebrews 4:15-16

end of yourself, and acknowledge that God's ways are always better. We can trust Him. It is His righteousness that has secured our forgiveness. Love Him, and believe that He is good today.



**Let's pray.**

<<Before the Throne of God Above>>

**Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.**



*Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! <sup>4</sup> Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”*  
**Revelation 15:3b-4**



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### **Excursus: Was it Possible for Jesus to Sin?**

But you ask, wait a minute – **James 1:13** says *God cannot be tempted by evil*. Therefore since God cannot sin,<sup>39</sup> were these temptations even real?

We know Jesus’ temptations were real since **Hebrews 4** describes Jesus as our great High Priest who *in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin*.<sup>40</sup>

So perhaps it’s helpful to remember that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. In some mysterious way, He fully

experiences temptation in His humanity, without being tempted to sin in His Divine nature.

David Platt shares a helpful illustration on this point in his commentary which he credits largely to Russell Moore,<sup>41</sup>

Think of the person in this world that you love the most. Picture their face, and then ask yourself, “Could I murder that person?” Immediately you’re thinking, “Absolutely not!” And in that response, what you’re thinking is, “I don’t have the *moral* capacity of murdering that person.” But if you understood my question, “Could you murder that person?” in terms of *physically* performing an action, though it’s unfathomable to you, it would be *physically* possible. Even so, Jesus, in His deity, as the light of the world in whom there is no darkness, could not have sinned. He is *morally* incapable of such an action. Yet at the same time, Jesus could have sinned in the sense that He was *physically* capable of eating bread or throwing Himself off a temple or bowing the knee to Satan. In this way, Jesus was fully tempted as we are (Heb 4:15).

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<sup>39</sup> Isaiah 6:3; 53:9; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 6:18

<sup>40</sup> Hebrews 4:15

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<sup>41</sup> *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Matthew*, David Platt, 68.



## Recommended Resources on Righteousness & Temptation:

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Deuteronomy 6:4, 13, 16; 8:3
- Psalm 91:11-12
- Matthew 6:13
- Mark 1:12-13; 14:38
- Luke 4:1-13
- John 12:50
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-14
- Hebrews 2:18; 4:12-16; 12:1-2
- James 1:2-4, 13-15
- 1 John 2:15-17
  
- <https://www.challies.com/articles/4-times-you-should-expect-to-face-temptation/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/killing-sin/labs>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/do-you-pray-against-temptation>
  
- *Tempted and Tried*, Russell Moore
- *Overcoming Sin & Temptation*, ed. Justin Taylor & Kelly Kopic

## Discussion Questions:

1. Read James 1:13-15. Does God ever tempt us to do evil? Where do temptations for evil come from?
2. Read 1 John 2:15-17. How are all the desires of the world reflected in Adam's temptation in Genesis 3 and Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4?
3. Review Matthew 4:3-10. Which of Jesus' temptations do you most identify with yourself? What Scriptures might help you best fight against these temptations?
4. How is Jesus' triumph through temptation the basis of our own righteousness as sons and daughters of God? What would have happened to us if Jesus would have yielded to temptation here? How is Jesus' temptation both more than, but not less than, an example for us?
5. Read John 8:44 and Revelation 12:9-10. Consider how Satan's temptations are always rooted in lies. Why is all sin fundamentally insane? How does your identity in Christ help you to triumph over temptation today?