

# *Temptation's Trouble*

Matt 4:1-11

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**Intro** *Temptation is a very basic tool of the devil and I don't think he plans on abandoning it soon.*

- A. After all, why mess with what works?
- B. No one is immune to it and everyone faces it from time to time.
- C. Even Jesus was led to the wilderness for the very purpose of temptation.
  - 1. I believe the purpose is so that His followers can see that temptation & the devil can be beaten back.
  - 2. We're reminded by John that someday the world and it's system of temptation will pass away.
    - a. **1 John 2:15-17**
- D. But, what to do in the meantime?
  - 1. Someone said, *"I cannot keep birds from flying over my head, but I can keep them from building their nests under my hat."* We cannot keep Satan from plying us with evil suggestions, but we can keep from responding to them.
  - 2. Learn from the Master

## **I. The 1<sup>st</sup> temptation was physical - Vs 2-3**

- A. Jesus had a pressing physical need.
  - 1. Sometimes when our physical needs are so great, we can't see past them. They obscure everything else.
- B. Jesus reminds us of what's really important - Vs 4
  - 1. What a great reminder!
    - a. There are things even more important than food!
- C. Jesus explained that very principle to the thousands whom He fed with a little bread and fish.
  - 1. **John 6:26-27**
  - 2. He goes on to refer to Himself as the "bread of life."
  - 3. It is truly the word of God, the teaching of the Son of God, the bread of life, that feeds the soul  
**John 6:68**

## **II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> temptation involved pride - Vs 5-6**

- A. Interesting that Satan knows Scripture and (mis)uses it.
- B. Think of the public response had Jesus jumped from the pinnacle and survived unscathed.
  - 1. They would have rallied around Him and maybe try to make Him king like some did when He fed the 5,000 (John 6:15)
- C. But such was not in the plan
  - 1. Jesus resisted temptation by *correctly* applying Scripture
    - a. **Matt 4:7**
- D. It's not for us to test God by daring Him to show His strength and power.
  - 1. **1 Cor 10:9**
    - a. Look at the event referred to - **Num 21:5-6**
    - b. They *dared* God to take better care of them
    - c. Consider the snake handling preachers who die from snake bites.
      - (1) Like the devil, they misuse Scripture (Mark 16:17-18) But really, their problem is the same as the Israelites - Testing God.
  - 2. Pride causes us to do some stupid things. Let's learn from their mistakes
    - a. **1 Cor 10:11-12**

### III. *The 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation concerned man's ego - Vs 8-9*

- A. The devil offers Jesus more than just the kingdoms of the world - he offers Him a shortcut to glory.
  - 1. The thing is, the Father had already promised these things to the Son.
    - a. **Psalm 2:7-8**
    - b. But Jesus would have to die to gain these things. The devil tries to get Jesus to bypass the cross "*if You fall down and worship me.*"
- B. Jesus answer is definitive and final. - **Vs 10**
  - 1. Not how worship and service are inextricably connected
  - 2. Whatever we worship is the god we serve.
  - 3. If we worship money, we obey its dictates and serve it. The same is true if we worship the devil or the God of heaven.
    - a. **Rom 6:16**
    - b. To present oneself to anything as a servant, as a worshiper requires humility and the letting go of one's ego.
    - c. But humbling oneself to God is humility that rewards with exaltation.
      - (1) "*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*" 1 Pet 5:6-7

### **Conc.** *Temptation will be around as long as man occupies this earth.*

- A. But we don't have to give in to it.
  - 1. **1 Cor 10:13**
- B. Rely on His word for help.
  - 1. "*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" **James 4:7**
- C. **INV.**