

The Temptation of Jesus

Study of Matthew, Part 10

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Outline

I. The Essence of Jesus' Temptation

A. Temptation #1: Satisfaction without Suffering (4:2-4)

"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

B. Temptation #2: Exaltation without Emptying (4:5-7)

"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down."

C. Temptation #3: The Crown without the Cross (4:8-10)

"All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

*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 world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:16-17*

II. The Meaning of Jesus' Temptation

A. Jesus is serving as the Second Adam (Gen. 3:1-7, Rom. 5:19)

B. Jesus is serving as the True Israel (Deut. 8:2)

C. Jesus is serving as Our Perfect Example (Heb. 12:1-2)

D. Jesus is serving as Our Perfect Substitute (Heb. 4:14-16)

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 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**. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:14-16*

The Temptation of Jesus

Study of Matthew, Part 10

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon Outline

1. Who leads Jesus to the wilderness to be tempted? What is God's design in testing? What is satan's aim in temptation? Can something be at the same time a test from God and a temptation from satan?

2. What two strains of prophecy are woven together in the Father's affirmation in 3:17? What does Jesus' first two temptations hinge upon? How do these temptations encourage Jesus to embrace half the affirmation and deny the other half?

3. Does Jesus ever do a miracle to meet his own needs? What does he do them for? What is the first temptation? Think about temptation in your own life. How are you tempted to meet your own needs instead of the needs of others, to satisfy yourself instead of suffering for others and submitting to God's Word?

4. Satan quotes Psalm 91:11 in his second temptation. Does this verse say that God will protect us when we fall or protect us when we jump? What does satan tempt Jesus to do here? What is he asking Jesus to prove? Why is this putting God to the test instead of trusting God's Word?

5. How are we tempted to put God to the test instead of trust His Word? What do we want God to do in our lives to show us He's real? Why is God's Word and gospel, often not enough for us?

6. How are we tempted to exalt ourselves instead of empty ourselves in life? Doesn't it seem like this is a continual temptation?

7. What is the third temptation all about in the life of Jesus? What is satan tempting Jesus to skip and avoid? How does this relate to the Father's affirmation at the baptism?

8. How does satan tempt us to take short cuts, avoid pain, and hardship at every turn and at any cost?

9. How is Jesus our perfect example of how to respond to temptation? How does he respond every time?

10. Why is it not enough for us to see Jesus as only our example? Why must we also see Him as our Perfect Substitute?