



#2: THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS | FEBRUARY 12, 2017 | MATTHEW 4:1-11

THE SETTING

- Danger point: application from historic narrative. Make sure application comes from direct teaching.
 - Driven by the Spirit – Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1
 - Forty days of fasting – Luke 4:2
- A 40-day trial. The numbers four and 10 are significant towards earthly issues. Forty is not a *spiritual* number.
- Temptation comes from “the tempter.” Mt. 4:1-2
- The temptations took place over a 40-day period. Only Matthew uses language that insists on a particular order (“then”). Were there other temptations? We do not know, but the possibility exists.

TEMPTATION 1: THE TEST OF AUTHORITY

- “If you are the Son of God...prove it” Mt 4:3-4, Luke 4:3-4
- Commanding the Son of God to action displays authoritarian mindset of the Devil.
- The response builds on the experience of the Hebrew nation in the wilderness, learning to depend on the Word of God rather than bread alone. Deuteronomy 8:1-3.

TEMPTATION 2: THE TEST OF GLORY

- “If you are the Son of God...display it” Mt. 4:5-7, Luke 4:9-12
- Note the devil’s misapplication of Scripture – Psalm 91:11-12
 - Personal pronouns are one of the greatest tools of Biblical understanding.

TEMPTATION 3: THE TEST OF PATIENCE

- “All this power I will give...” Mt4:8-11 , Luke 4:5-8
- The devil was not offering something that he did not have. As “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), the Devil is in control of the affairs of this world.
 - Don’t confuse the sovereignty of God with the inability of the devil.
 - Don’t forget that the binding of the devil is yet future.
 - Don’t believe that earthly success is always God’s blessing.
- In the future, all the kingdoms of the world will be given to the Son of God, in a time we call the Kingdom of God.

Word Study: $\pi\rho\sigma\kappa\upsilon\nu\acute{\epsilon}\omega$ [*proskuneo* /pros-koo-neh-o/] translated “worship”

- From *pros* – unto, and *kuon* – dog
- Literally, to adore like a dog licking his master’s hand
- Derivatives:
 - Keen – from the German *Kuhn* for “bold, daring.” This use of *Kuhn* came into German from the characteristics of a dog.

TEMPTATION FOR TODAY’S BELIEVER

- No believer of any level of spiritual maturity is free from temptation.
- The devil is going to tempt you in areas of known weakness.
- The best defense is a strong offense: the full armor of God along with spiritual vitality and focus.
- A friend who knows your weaknesses and is willing to graciously help you can be a tremendous blessing.