



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King is Tested!

Matthew 4:1-11

Message #5 of 80 – S1035

Sermon given on February 12, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King is Tested!

Matthew 4:1-11

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 4**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The King and His Kingdom**
- This message is for people who know they are not perfect.
- If you know you aren't perfect, how do you know it?
- To prove the quality, nature, or character of something it is tested.
- And this morning, we are going to see that spiritual tests are a part of growing our faith.
- Assuming you want your faith to grow, it would be good to know how to pass the tests that will come.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to make us willing to listen - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King is Tested!**
- Last time we looked at the baptism of Christ.
- That chapter ended in dramatic fashion.
- **Matthew 3:17**
- God the father speaks from heaven and declares to everyone there that Jesus is God the Son, the second person of the triune godhead.
- The something unexpected happens.
- **Matthew 4:1**
- The Greek word that is translated as 'tempted' here is used two ways in the New Testament.
- The first way is how we see it used here.

Tempt: try to trap, attempt to catch in a mistake, to entice to sin.

- The second way it is used is:

Test: examine, submit another to a test, to learn the true nature or character of.

- Context determines which of the two applies.
- But it is not unusual that both apply, such as in this case.
- There are several things we should note about this verse.
- First, it is God the Holy Spirit who leads Jesus out to be tempted.

- Second, it is the devil who does the tempting.
- God had a reason and a purpose for allowing Jesus to be tempted, but He did not do the tempting. **James 1:13-14**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

- And third, Jesus is alone in the wilderness.
- And not just alone.
- **Matthew 4:2**
- Jesus was God the Son, but He had taken on human flesh.
- He had the same basic needs that each of us has food, water, rest.
- After forty days, Jesus was on the verge of starvation.
- He was close to death – He was at His weakest point.
- And that is when He was attacked.
- **Matthew 4:3**
- ‘If you are...’ could also be translated, ‘Since you are...’
- The devil tells Jesus to solve this problem by turning stones in bread – nice hot loaves of bread.
- Jesus could easily have done this.
- When Satan tempts us, it is not going to be in an area where we are unable to do what he is leading us to do.
- He will always tempt us to do something we are perfectly able to do.
- Regardless who you are or what you are tempted by it falls into one of the three forms of temptation. The apostle John described them **1**

John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

- The devil tempts Jesus with the lust of the flesh.
- Jesus is starving – He needs to eat.
- Temptations will come when we are weak and in areas where we feel a need.
- When that happens, we need to do what Jesus does here.
- **Matthew 4:4**
- Jesus quotes the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy.

- As much as Jesus needed to eat, He needed to do what God wanted more. God had promised to take care of Him.
- The fact that He was alone in the wilderness on the verge of starvation with the devil whispering in His ear didn't nullify God's Word.
- Jesus knew what God's Word said, and He trusted God to keep His Word.
- One of the keys to enduring the temptations that will come in life is knowing and believing God's Word.
- That is one of the reasons why we encourage you to read your Bible every day. One-Year Bibles.
- The devil is not done with Jesus yet.
- **Matthew 4:5-6**
- Turn in your Bible to **Psalm 91**.
- The devil quotes Scripture.
- The devil, aka Satan knows what the Bible says, better than we do.
- To throw Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple would be a great display of His power, and the everyone there would know He was the Messiah.
- But there is one problem with the devil's quotation.
- **Psalm 91:11-12**
- The devil leaves out the phrase 'to keep you in all your ways.'
- This psalm is about someone walking in righteousness with the Lord God Almighty.
- If you walk in faith and obedience with God, He is going to take care of you.
- Doesn't mean you can do any crazy thing you feel like doing.
- Notice Jesus' response.
- **Matthew 4:7**
- We can't just assume upon the grace of God to do anything that comes into our mind.
- Jesus knew that stepping off the pinnacle of the temple was not God's will.
- From a human perspective, it might have made His ministry more successful.

- This was a temptation of the lust of the eye.
- One of the ways we learn to resist temptation is to know God and His will.
- We do that in His Word, in prayer, in fellowship, in service.
- The devil has one last temptation to throw at Jesus.
- **Matthew 4:8-9**
- This final temptation falls into the category of the lust of the pride of life.
- Jesus is the King of the world, and He will establish His kingdom on this earth.
- The devil is offering Jesus a shortcut.
- Rather than going through all that suffering, just worship the devil and He could have all the kingdoms of the world.
- The problem with the devil's offer is that it bypasses the cross.
- Jesus didn't come to just be King; He came to be the Savior-King.
- We are often faced with the same kind of temptation, to take a shortcut to God's plan.
- One of the things that we need to understand is that God is not just interested in getting us to a certain destination, but He usually uses the journey to prepare us for the destination. Let me say that again:
God uses the journey to prepare us for the destination.
- If we take a shortcut to God's plan, we may not be in a position to be used by God once we arrive where He wants us to get to.
- Jesus isn't going to fall for that trick.
- **Matthew 4:10**
- This is another quote out of Deuteronomy.
- This is the weakest point in Jesus' life, except as they prepare to nail Him to the cross.
- In His desperately weakened state, He stands against the attacks of the devil with only His faith and the Word of God.
- Jesus tells the devil to leave, and he does.
- **Matthew 4:11**
- After Satan left, angels came and ministered to Jesus.

- Jesus, in His human flesh, on the verge of starvation, alone in the wilderness withstood the temptations of the devil.
- The temptations Christ faced were tough, but they were also temporary.
- So, also, our temptations will be tough for us, but they are only temporary.
- Resist them and you will get through them. **James 4:7**
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- God allows temptations to test us and refine our faith.
- He never sends us into a temptation that we cannot resist and be victorious through faith in Christ **1 Corinthians 10:13**.
No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
- God led Jesus out into the wilderness and allowed the devil to tempt Him while He was in a desperately weakened state.
- God tested Jesus in the wilderness – not to see if He would be faithful, but so that we could see His example of faithfulness.
- Jesus was perfect. He endured these temptations without failing because He was perfect in all ways.
- You will face temptation and fail because you are not perfect.
- Temptations prove to us our need to be further perfected into the likeness of Christ. They test our faith.
- We have everything we need to resist the devil and make him flee from us.
- We have the same Spirit and the same Word of God as Christ had when He stood against the devil's attacks.
- Not only that, but Jesus also crushed the power of Satan at the cross.
- By faith we stand in His victory and no weapon formed against us can prosper.
- Put your faith fully in Christ – get to know Him through His Word – yield yourself fully to His Holy Spirit – trust God for everything.
- And you will pass more tests. - **Pray**