

## The Temptation of Jesus Christ, The Son of man.

Matthew 4:1 – 11

From the time Jesus Christ was born until the beginning of His Ministry as Saviour was some 30 years. We do not know a lot about young Jesus because from his birth in chapter 1 till here in chapter 4 30 years had passed. We do know at the age of 12 years old He is found in the temple. **Luke 2:42, 46 - 47** “*And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. (46) And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. (47) And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.*” Now in Matthew chapter 4 after Jesus had been Baptized, He was led by the Holy Spirit “into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” V. 1 This would be the beginning of the earthly Ministry of Jesus. First to be baptized, second to be tempted, and third to start calling out and assembling the first church at Jerusalem. And He would end His earthly ministry on the cross at Carvery, subjecting Himself to the wicked hands of His own creation, for our salvation.

There is something very important we must understand about Jesus the Christ. (1.) He was and is God, He is so much God that He said “if you seen me you have seen the Father.” **John 14:9** “*Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*” John 1:1 says “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**” And verse 14 says “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*” So, there is no question that Jesus Christ was fully deity in every way of His being. However, Jesus did things God cannot do, (1.) God is eternal meaning He has no beginning or end; therefore, God cannot be born, He cannot have a beginning. (2.) Jesus grew-up as a man, learning along the way, this something else God cannot do because God is omniscience. (3.) Jesus was tempted by Satan and God cannot be tempted. **James 1:13 - 14** “*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*” And (4.) God cannot die at the hands of His own creation, not in any part of the Godhead. While I must confess, I do not understand so much about God and Jesus, this is have

learned, when studying the life of Jesus and understanding His deity, we must also understand His human side. A lot of actions Jesus performed, He did so as the Son of man, the Son of Mary and not as God or deity. I must confess, it gets confusing and many questions are born because of it, but we all understand by God's grace and gift of wisdom, which we must pray for daily. **James 1:5** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." So here we see Jesus, the Son of man being tempted of Satan. This is important because this temptation shows the power and strength of the Son of man, in the likeness of sinful flesh being tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:15** "*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*" This event is so important because while Adam caved to the temptations of Satan through his wife, the second Adam did not. Therefore, we fall in the first Adam and live in the second Adam Jesus the Christ. This temptation is part of living the law, as believers we have lived the fulfillment of God's Holy Law in Jesus Christ, having all our crimes and failures to God forgiven, making us as though we are perfect. Jesus here in this event is not only suffering humanly for us but proving us before our Heavenly Father. Praise God for His gift of His Son to be our Saviour in every point of our life. We live only in Him.

A. The tempter was Satan.

1. Satan was allowed the opportunity to tempt Jesus whom he knew to be God's Son. Satan knew this was the Saviour of mankind, and Satan wanted Jesus to fail just as he did the first Adam.
2. Why did God allow Satan to tempt Jesus His own dear Son? Jesus was not tempted so that the Father could learn anything about His Son, for the Father had already given Jesus His divine approval. Jesus was tempted so that every creature in heaven, on earth, or under the earth might know that Jesus Christ is the victory over Satan and our Saviour and King.
3. Satan is a real being, seeking whom he may devour, don't ever forget that. He seeks to tempt you that you might fail God.
4. The World is ruled by the wicked influence of Satan. 2 Corinthians 4:4 "*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the*

*light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

5. Here Satan tempted Jesus as he tempts us, but Jesus defeated Satan. Because of His victory, we can have victory over the tempter.
  6. **1 Corinthians 15:45** *“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”*
  7. It is important to notice that Jesus faced the Satan as man, not as the Son of God. His first word was, “Man shall not live by bread alone.” We must not think that Jesus used His divine powers to overcome the temptations of Satan.
  8. Satan’s goal is the everlasting destruction of every living soul, He seeks whom he may devour and by devouring the Son of man, he would have devoured us all.
- B. The first temptation was that He is deity. **Verses 1 – 4** notice **V. 3** *“...he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”*
1. As Christians we must constantly watch and pray that we be not taken by his devices. Satan is an ADVASARY not a friend. He seeks to devour us, not to help us. **1 Peter 5:7 - 8** *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”*
  2. Jesus had “...he had fasted forty days and forty nights” V. 2 While God does not hunger the son of man did, just as we do. He had nothing to eat to make His temptation stronger to resist. Not as deity but as human, human that “knew no sin.” **2 Corinthians 5:21** *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*
  3. Satan demanded in verse 3 *“...If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”* The temptation was hunger and if Jesus had made the stones turn to bread, it would not have been to show who He was, but He would have surrendered to temptation.
  4. Jesus’s answer was in verse 4 *“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

5. When we put our physical needs ahead of our spiritual needs, we sin. When we allow circumstances to dictate our actions, instead of following God's word and will, we sin.
6. This temptation was to cause Jesus to allow His personal hunger overcome his purpose in this event of His life. God put Him in this place at this time to prove we do not have to sin to be satisfied.

C. The second temptation is in **verses 5 – 7** They move to Jerusalem in the Temple.

1. The holy city - Jerusalem, called holy because the temple was there, and because it was the place of religious worship.
2. The second temptation was even more subtle. This time Satan also used the Word of God. V. 6 “*...If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*”
  - a. Don't hate it when devils use the scriptures out-of-context against you? This is exactly what Satan did to Jesus.
  - b. **Psalms 91:11 - 12** “*For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*”
  - c. The charge is that God promised to care for His own. “If You really believe the Scriptures, then jump! Let's see if the Father cares for You!” What ignorance of God. It is like the ignorant junk Arminians use against Baptist today.
3. Jesus answered him in the context of the scriptures. “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” We can prove almost anything by the Bible if we isolate texts from the contexts and turn them into pretexts. Satan had cleverly omitted the phrase “in all Thy ways” when he quoted from Psalms 91:11 – 12.
4. When the child of God is in the will of God, the Father will protect him. He watches over those who are “in His ways.”
5. So, what was Jesus reply, it was another scripture. **Deuteronomy 6:16** “Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah (mas-saw').” Massah means - trial, temptation, a name given to the place where the Israelites, by their murmuring for want of water, provoked Jehovah to anger against them.

D. Satan asked for Jesus to worship him. Verses 8 – 10

1. There is much debate about this, whether it was what he could see from the mountain top are all the kingdoms of the world. Who knows for sure but Satan did mention "...sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world..."
2. But God has already promised all this to Him. **Psalms 2:7 - 8** "*I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*"
3. But Satan promised to Him now, if He would fall down and worship him. V. 9 "...All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."
4. But as God has promised, glory is coming for all Christians, in time. There are no shortcuts to the will of God. If we want to share in the glory, we must also share in the suffering. **1 Peter 5:10 - 11** "*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*"
5. Jesus answered in V. 10 "*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*"