

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH

Week 18 – SUMMARY: Jesus’ Temptation...Proof That He Is The Son Of God – Pt. 3

November 14, 2021

*Matt. 4:1 – Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

The attack came from the outside – from the adversary/the accuser who is a DEFEATED ENEMY!

*Mk. 1:12 - The Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.* The Gk. word for “drove” means to drive out with force.

WHY? FOR VICTORY! FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!

Regarding the temptation of Jesus: At His baptism, Jesus was declared to be the Son of God. At His temptation, Jesus proved that He is the Son of God!

Jesus’ temptation was part of God’s plan! Jesus endured temptation so that He could identify with us.

*Heb. 2:18 – For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

*Heb. 4:15 – He was in all points tempted as we are yet without sin.*

Jesus didn’t give into Satan’s temptation because Jesus does not have a sin nature!! (James 1:13-15).

Because Jesus didn’t give into Satan’s temptation, He was attacked by Satan to the “nth degree” – which means to the utmost. (lit. “to any required power” w/ “n” standing for any number). Satan waged a full onslaught fierce attack at Jesus to destroy Him, and in doing so – to destroy God’s plan. Get the picture? NO – we can’t – because we give in – in some way – to temptations!

We can rejoice that Jesus has the power to crush the enemy and to destroy sin and death! And so, in this account we are witnesses of our Jesus Who came to pay the penalty for our sin and to overturn the curse, to restore the earth, to restore Israel, and to reconcile man to God.

In this battle with the enemy, Jesus is totally focused on the conflict...He is totally focused on the will of the Father. Jesus is engaged in an intense conflict with the devil to demonstrate His deity!

The Greek word for “tempt” *peirazo*, can mean a temptation or a testing. The Greek word carries the idea either enticing to evil or the testing for a positive outcome.

Regarding Jesus’ temptation, from God’s viewpoint it is VICTORY because it is proving that the Son of God is worthy. This is why the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness for the conflict! From the devil’s standpoint it is a way to tempt the Son to demonstrate that He is unworthy; it is a way to destroy the Son of God. NEVER GOING TO OCCUR!

Jesus’ came in the likeness (Rom. 8:3; Phil. 2:7), in the appearance (Phil. 2:8) of man. Jesus has no sin nature because He is God:

Col. 1:19 – *For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) the fullness (all divine power and attributes) should dwell.*

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Col. 2:9 – *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.* While in the flesh, during His ministry on earth, all divine power and attributes dwelled in Jesus.

Heb. 7:26 - *For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy (set apart), harmless (w/o evil or malice), undefiled (free from contamination), separate from sinners (no sin nature which would be the source of any act of sin.*

Jesus was not capable of sinning!

The three recorded temptations directed at Jesus are unique to Him. These three temptations hurled at Jesus by Satan represent a less costly way to do God's work. Satan is tempting Jesus to take short cuts which would cause Jesus to bypass/to eliminate the cross.

God had decreed redemption through Jesus the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). God's plan is ETERNAL. God doesn't change (Mal. 3:6). There is only Plan A! God does NOT have Plan B, C, D...X, Y, Z!!!!

As Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus responded to Satan with Scripture. This is how we, as believers, must come against Satan's attacks.

#### First Temptation

Matthew 4:3-4 – *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'* The word "if" in the Greek is better translated as "forasmuch as You are the Son of God": since You are...in consideration that You are...seeing that You are.

CONSIDER: We need to remember that Satan never questions the deity of Jesus, the demons don't question the deity of Jesus, only religious liberals question the deity of Jesus. Satan and the fallen angels knew Jesus before they fell. They know Jesus to be God.

James 2:19 - *...Even the demons believe—and tremble!*

Matt. 8:28-29 - *... in the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?'*

The first temptation is a temptation to distrust God's love...to distrust God's plan for the Son of God. Satan was attempting to get Jesus to rethink God's plan.

Regarding changing the stones into bread...Jesus had the power to do so. He performed miracles FOR OTHERS. Satan was attempting to get Jesus to divert His

power to serve Himself. At no time during His ministry did Jesus use His miraculous powers to gratify Himself.

### Second Temptation

Matthew 4:5-7 – *Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, If (forasmuch as) You are the Son of God, throw Yourself*

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*down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*

While quoting Psa. 91:11-12, Satan twists the verses and eliminates “to keep you in all your ways” following “He shall give His angels charge over you.” Satan wanted Jesus to veer from His path. Also, Satan was telling Jesus to test God by throwing Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple.

### Third Temptation

Matthew 4:8-9 – *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.'*

Psa. 2:8 - God the Father said to God the Son, Ask of Me and I'll give the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possessions. These are the words of God the Father to God the Son – speaking of what would happen in the Millennial Kingdom – after the humiliation, after the suffering on the cross, after three days and three nights in the grave, after the resurrection, after Jesus' ascension, after sitting at the right hand of God, after the rapture. Satan was offering this to Jesus NOW! Again, Satan offered the means by which Jesus could bypass the cross.

How could Satan offer Jesus all the kingdom of the world?

John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11 – he is called “the ruler of this world.” Satan is NOT the ruler of the universe. He is the ruler of the world system.

I John 5:19 – *The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

These passages do NOT teach that Satan literally possesses all the nations of the world. He rules the system of evil that dominates the nations of the world.

Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, praised the Most High God Who rules over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes (Dan. 4:17).

Dan. 2:20-22 – God removes kings and raises up kings.

Acts 17:26 – it is God Who designs and turns the boundaries of the nations and times and seasons.

Satan doesn't possess the kingdoms of the world. Satan does not determine the nations or who rules the nations. Satan is essentially telling Jesus, "I can make life easier for You. You're supposed to have the kingdoms of the world for Your own, You're supposed to be the ruler. You can go right to the crown. You can forget the cross. However, there's one condition..."

Matt. 4:9 – *All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.*

Through understanding these temptations, God further confirms to us that Jesus knew that before He would wear His crown of glory, He would first wear His crown of thorns. Jesus' baptism signified His death and resurrection. Jesus' baptism announced that He would be the ultimate sacrifice offered to everyone!

Jesus had to submit to the Father – there was no other way.

Jesus had to go to the cross to bear our sin – there was no other way.

Jesus told John that He had to fulfill all righteousness.

And so Jesus proclaimed...

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Matthew 4:10-11 – *'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

Jesus had to conquer Satan in the wilderness. He had to destroy Satan and his power over death at the cross (Heb. 2:14). Resurrection was VICTORY. When the 1,000 years of the Millennial Kingdom have "expired," Satan will be released from the pit (Rev. 20) and will go out to deceive the nations – to gather them to battle, surrounding the camp of the saints and Jerusalem. God will devour Satan and his minions with fire. And the devil will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

At the outset of His public ministry, Jesus, Who was declared to be the Messiah/the Son of God at His baptism, proved that He is the Messiah/the Son of God at His temptation! This is our GLORIOUS ALL-POWERFUL GOD!