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*JANUARY 17, 2016*

**“IT’S REALLY  
TEMPTING!”**

*MATTHEW 4: 1-11*

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# A Man Who Needs an Introduction

- *Personal*
- *Professional*
- *Spiritual*
- *Woodmen Valley Activities*
- *Others*

# Sharing and Praying

*Take 10 minutes  
and then ...*

# A Five Minute Table Chat

- *What is Temptation?*
- *Is Temptation a sin?*
- *Are you sure?*
- *From where does temptation come?*
- *How many times was Jesus tempted in the wilderness?*

# The Passage - Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be **tempted** by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The **tempter** came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

# The Passage - Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the **test**.’”

# The Passage - Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.



# More Insight - Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)

4:1-2 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being **tempted** by the devil...

13 And when the devil had finished every **temptation**, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

*Luke also changes the order of the three temptations...*

# Background Thoughts

- Very familiar passage on temptation
- But, have you ever wondered...
  - *How did Matthew learn about these events?*
  - *How did Luke learn about these events?*
- So, why did Jesus want us to know about it?

# What is TEMPTATION?

- Greek: ΠΕΙΡΑΣΜΟΣ peirasmos  
[pē-rah-s-mos']
- Meanings:
  - Temptation
  - Testing
  - Trial
  - Teasing
- For us, temptation is:
  - Testing our integrity
  - Are we who we say we are, who we think we are, and who we act like?

# Other Passages “Tempted”

- *In the garden Luke 22:46*  
“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them.  
“Get up and pray so that you will not fall into **temptation.**”
- *Advice from Paul Galatians 6:1*  
Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be **tempted.**

# Other Passages “Trial”

- *Persecution 1 Peter 1:6*

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of **trials**.

- *What is he saying? James 1:2-3*

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials** of many kinds because you know that the testing\* of your faith develops perseverance....

\* δοκιμιον dokimion, not peirasmos – means “examination” or “proving”

# Another Key Passage

- *The Lord's Prayer Matt. 6:13*  
“And lead us not into **temptation**, but deliver us from evil.”
- *Does God lead us into temptation?*
  - This transliteration may be confusing
- I think it's more like: “Lead us so that we don't fall into temptation and give us the wisdom and strength to withstand it when we do.”

# Another Key Passage

- *James is quite clear in 1:13-14*

Let no one say when he is **tempted**, “I am being **tempted** by God” for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, and He Himself does not **tempt** anyone. But each one is **tempted** when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

- God does **not** lead us into temptation!
- He can lead us out, if we follow Him!

# Why did Jesus go out into the wilderness?

- *He was led by* **The Holy Spirit**
- *In order to be* **Tested**
- *Other reasons?*  
~~**In order to be trained?**~~  
~~**In order to do some planning?**~~  
**To prove to us who He is! Not like Adam!**



# Who else was being tested?

- Instructors give exams to their students
- The exams test both sides
  - *Yes, they do reveal how much the students have learned*
  - *But they also reveal how well the instructor has taught them*
- We can see that Satan was also being tested!
- And he **failed** to understand who he was dealing with!

# Who else was being tested?

- Instructors and students
- The world  
– You  
– le  
– Bu  
– taug  
– have  
– as
- We can  
– being tested!
- And he  
– understand who he was  
– dealing with!

What would the world be like now if Satan had not failed this test?

# A Five Minute Table Chat

- *What general temptations are symbolized by the three?*

Rocks? \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdoms? \_\_\_\_\_ Tower? \_\_\_\_\_

- *What is ironic about each of the three temptations?*

Rocks? \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdoms? \_\_\_\_\_ Tower? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE TEMPTATIONS!

- *How many were there?* ~~3~~ **1,000's**
- *The big three are described:*

## Specific

**Bread from rocks**

---

**Many kingdoms**

---

**Jump from tower**

---

## General

**Wealth**

---

**Power**

---

**Eternal life**

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## Irony

**Fed multitudes**

---

**King of Universe**

---

**Eternal existence**

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# OUR TEMPTATIONS!

- *What are our COMMON temptations?*
- *Shout 'em out!*

**Sensuousness**

**Greed**

**Ambition**

**Anger**

**Fear**

**Doubt**

**Jealousy**

**Envy**

**Bitterness**

**Hatred**

**Selfishness**

**Gossip**

How can we overcome?  
By KNOWING and REMEMBERING  
–*The Bible*

# How can we overcome?

- *1 Corinthians 10:13*

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide **a way out** so that you can stand up under it.

# How can we overcome?

- *Galatians 5:16*

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

- *James 4:7*

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.



# How can we overcome?

- *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

# How can we overcome?

- *Psalm 119:11*

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- *Romans 12:2*

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test\* and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

\* δοκιμαζο dokimazo, not peirasmos – means “to examine” or “to analyze”

How can we overcome?

By KNOWING and REMEMBERING

– *The Bible*

– *Who you believe and trust*

– *What you believe*

– *Why you believe it*

# How can we overcome?

## By KNOWING and REMEMBERING

- *What you already have*
- *What you really need and don't need*
- *Who loves you*
- *Who you love*
- *Who your enemy is, and that he is defeated*

# How can we overcome?

- DON'T

- *Go where there's trouble*
- *Think a little sin never hurt anybody*
- *Think we won't be discovered*
- *Give up our reputation for something trivial (or anything, for that matter!)*

- DO

- *Be aware of the goodness of what we have*
- *Be content with the great things we have*
- *Draw boundaries on what we see and do*

# Final Time to Chat!

- What personal temptations are you willing to share with others? (not mandatory)
- What do you do to defeat them?
- What habits have you developed, or not, to avoid temptation?
- What advice can you offer to other people?
- What special temptations are aimed at church and ministry leaders?

Questions or comments?

*Thanks!*

