

The Temptation of Christ To Will One Thing

Matthew 4:1-11

Stories of Faith, Prayer & Fasting

- Previously – Old Testament stories
- Today turning to the story of Jesus in the wilderness
- Jesus being tested/tempted by the Devil

'Temptare'

- To test, tempt, touch, try
- It has an instructive root – something we can learn from
- It can be a source of learning and discipline – not always a bad thing

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

The Story's Context

- After his baptism & identification as the Son of God (3:17) Jesus faces a time of testing/temptation
- A 40-day fast
- Times of exhilaration and times of challenge

Test #1

Matthew 4:1-4

The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Matthew 4:3-4

Jesus is Famished from Fasting

- The Devil (Tempter) encourages Jesus to turn stone into bread
- "If you are the Son of God you can do it..."

Temptation: Immediate Gratification

- You have a need – go for it
- Satisfy your needs
- Greedy for sensation

It's About Control

- Our desire to control how things work out
- Control is contrasted with waiting upon God
- To live in dependence upon God – watch & wait

A Call to Trust

- If we demand control then we give up our dependence & trust in God
- "One does not live on bread alone" (Jesus)
- A call to trust & lean on God as Creator/Saviour

Test #2

Matthew 4:5-7

...saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

Matthew 4:6

Jesus on the Temple Pinnacle

- The Devil tempts him to jump off
- Do something spectacular

Temptation: Manipulate God

- Force the hand of God
- The angels will protect you
- Make demands upon God

It's Not About a Contract

- I will do this for you if you do this for me
- We are called to a journey of faith

Jesus' Response

- “We are not to test God”
- We are to make a journey of faith – a daily choice amidst the struggles of life
- We have our own Road to Emmaus to walk

Test #3

Matthew 4:8-11

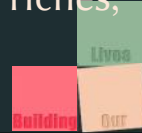
...and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

Matthew 4:9-10



The Splendours of the World

- The Devil offers all to Jesus in return for worship
- A temptation for power, riches, glory



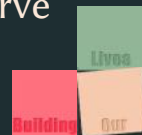
Temptation: Compromise

- Become the world ruler but do it my way
- Pervert your mission – take a short-cut



To The Deceiver

- Away with you
- No more games
- We only worship and serve God



Will One Thing

- To not be divided
- Keep focused on the main thing
- Receive the tests as opportunities to grow and learn

