

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God sends Jesus to be tested by Satan in the wilderness to begin the fulfillment of His ordained mission as Messiah: to save Israel by being what they could and would never be, a perfectly obedient Son.

Sermon Point: *Jesus Has Passed Your Test.*

Move 1: You will be tested by the Devil at your most vulnerable moments.

Satan's sinister tactics of temptation: attacks your weaknesses:

- Vss. 2-3: physically; vss. 1, 5-6: alone and lonely; vss. 8-9: desire to gain without pain.
- Vs. 3: Names – Tempter. Devil: accuser. Satan: adversary. Rev. 12:9: “old Serpent” who deceives.
- Misuses Scripture: Vss. 5-6: is Psalm 91:11-12. Leaves out “to keep thee in all thy ways”.
- Keeps coming back to cut you down: 3 Xs, plus Lk. 4:13; Mt. 16:23; 26:36-46; Lk. 22:3; 23:37, 39.
- Vss. 3/6: “If/Since you are.” Questions your identity, tempts you to prove (and lose) by justifying.
- Brings you to high places to set up a fall (Prov. 16:18). After great spiritual experiences (3:16-17).
- *Real* temptations. 3:9. Satan is prince of world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12).

Satan tempts you pragmatically to settle for less than the best. Don't faint: Gal. 6:9.

Move 2: Jesus shows you how to endure testing when you are most vulnerable.

Jesus' tactics of sanctified self-defense against Devil's temptations—the Lord is His strength:

- Prayer (Jesus prayed at baptism, Luke 3:21). 40 days of preparation: remembering sky/dove/voice.
- Vs. 1: fasting, to gain strength in God.
- Replies with, “It is written!” quoting God's Word as rule of faith/life: Deut. 8:3 (vs. 4), Deut. 6:16 (vs. 7), Deut. 6:13 (vs. 10). Lives Ps. 119:89: *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*
- Doesn't get distracted. Redirects conversation. Confronts. Commands. Speaks out loud. Banishes.
- Commitment to delayed gratification: vs. 11; 28:18.
- Remembers who is speaking (Satan) and Who has spoken (God), vs. 4: 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

Jesus' tactics: *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7)
Phil. 4:13; Heb. 4:12/Eph. 6:17; Heb. 10:39.

Move 3: Yet only Jesus can perfectly pass God's test.

Only a Perfect Son gets to be with the Heavenly Father. All Jesus' quotes are from Deuteronomy: about Israel who failed the wilderness test and died in the wilderness. Mt. 2:15 of Hos. 11:1 with Exod. 4:22 (Israel is a type of Jesus as God's Son):

- Vs. 1: Holy Spirit leads Jesus here. The next step to fulfill all righteousness (3:15) as Perfect Son.
- Vs. 4: is Deut. 8:3: ... *he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that ...* [rest is what Jesus quotes]. Note Deut. 8:16 that follows: ... *that he might prove thee ...* [Test you]
- Vs. 7: is Deut. 6:16: [what Christ quotes]... *as ye tempted him in Massah*. Moses warns Israel not to test God as they had in Ex. 17:1-7 for water. They did it again in wilderness wanderings (Num. 20).
- Vs. 10: is Deut. 6:13: Moses cautions Israel to only serve God, and in verse 14, not to violate Ex. 20:5 by serving other gods as they had the Golden Calf while yet at Mt. Sinai in the wilderness!
- Just like Adam (son of God, Lk. 3:38), God's Son, Israel failed. Jesus prevailed as God's true Son.
- Vs. 2: forty days/nights: Ex. 34:28; Acts 7:30 (Moses); 1 Kg. 19:8 (Elijah): Israel through wilderness 40 years (Ex. 16:35; Acts 13:18, Numb. 8:5; Heb. 3:9, 17). Christ prepares and performs.
- Satan's testing: "If you are the Son of God". Jesus proves, "I AM!". He obeys the Father perfectly.

Main thing to see in Matthew 4:1-11: Christ's Active Obedience through a sinless life on your behalf. sHeb. 2:18; 4:15; Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4-5:

Conclusion:

WLC 48.

Jesus Has Passed Your Test.