

The Gospel According to Matthew

Study # 5

Chapter 4

Outline

I. Satan Tempts Christ (Matt. 4:1-11)

II. Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (Matt. 4:12-25)

Notes:

The "first Adam" was tempted and he sinned. But the "last Adam", who is Christ, was tempted but never sinned and overcame the devil. Satan tempted Christ with "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16).

The lust of the flesh - Satan tempting Christ to sin by gratifying the flesh (turning the stones into bread) in obedience to Satan and thus disobeying God.

The lust of the eyes - Satan tempting Christ to sin by worshipping him in order to receive the vain things of the world.

The pride of life - Satan tempting Christ to sin by showing to the world that He is the Messiah by jumping of the pinnacle of the temple.

Satan tempts us with the lust of the flesh (unlawful and forbidden desire such as fornication, adultery, etc.)

Satan tempts us with the lust of the eyes (evil desires that arise from what we see).

Satan tempts us with the pride of life (unholy and selfish ambition not according to the will of God).

Four Things to Remember in the Time of Temptation

1. Jesus is there for you and understands what you are going through. Jesus was tempted as we are yet without sin. And He can sympathize with us in our weaknesses and when we are tempted:

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:15-16)

"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful

and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." (Heb. 2:17-18)

2. Jesus used the Word of God as "the sword of the Spirit" in His confrontation with the devil to resist all temptations. The same thing is true for us; we should use the word of God and hid it in our hearts continually:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." (Psalm 119:11)

3. God allows temptation and testing to strengthen our faith:

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." (James 1:2-3)

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." (James 1:12-16)

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 1:6-7)

4. God promises He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear:

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

Man Shall Not Live By Bread Alone

Physical food sustains physical life but the Word of God sustains spiritual life. God gave us the Word of God and prayer as a channel of spiritual sustenance and growth:

"I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food." (Job 23:12)

"Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts." (Jer. 15:16)

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

"Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:23-25)

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." (John 15:7)

When Jesus came into Capernaum (vs. 13) the light of His glory shined upon them. Jesus is the light of the world and if we follow Him we shall not walk in darkness:

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Christ started out His ministry by preaching about repentance. Repentance is a change of heart and mind that leads to a change of life. Christ talked a lot about repentance during His ministry:

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

"Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent." (Matt. 11:20)

When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Mark 2:17)

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7)

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

Jesus called the Peter and Andrew his brother and James and John his brother to be

his disciples. When the call came to them they immediately left all and followed Him. Even James and John left their father and followed Him. The same thing is true for us. We ought to put Christ first in our lives:

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." (Matt. 10:37)

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