

temptation vs. truth

MATTHEW 4:1-11

THE QUESTION

How can Scripture help us deal with temptation?

THE POINT

When we face temptation, we can overcome it by knowing and applying Scripture.

01

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PEOPLE



God gives us the Bible to deepen our relationship with Him and to resist the temptation to serve ourselves.



LET'S look

MATTHEW 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ He answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will give his angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus told him, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.



DID YOU KNOW?

On average, most semi-pro guitarists own around five guitars.¹

➤ MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 4:10

Bible Meets Life

THE QUESTION ➤ How can Scripture help us deal with temptation?

THE POINT ➤ When we face temptation, we can overcome it by knowing and applying Scripture.

The battle between the flesh and the Spirit can often seem intense. This passage reminds us that temptation does not have to control our lives. While facing temptations can often feel overwhelming, we can overcome them. We can take comfort that Satan has no power to make us sin. Everyone is tempted to sin, but being tempted is not a sin in and of itself. Even Jesus was tempted. We can resist any temptation he throws at us. How? By knowing and doing what the Bible says. Embracing this truth will deepen our relationship with Jesus and reveal a better way for us to live.

MOVING forward

Take a moment this week to reflect on who or what influences your life. What voices are you allowing to impact you? It's essential to surround yourself with people who speak the truth and encourage you to pursue Christ more intentionally.

MAIN TAKEAWAY

What is one thing you took away from today's session?

Think about this: Knowledge of Scripture is great. Application of that knowledge is where we will see transformation takes place.

DAY 01

Read

Take some time and check out **Genesis 3:1-7**.

In our main session, we examined how God’s Word, the Bible, helps us navigate temptation. Satan came to Jesus and twisted and manipulated God’s Word. He was attempting to sell what he could never deliver. It’s important to remember that the truth of the Bible will never fail and will last forever. More on this tomorrow.

In Genesis 3:1-7, we see just how deceptive Satan can be as he is described as “the most cunning of all the wild animals” (v. 1). The “Did God really say . . . ?” lie shows his goal to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10). Unfortunately, Adam and Eve believed the lie that what Satan offered was better than what God offered. Temptation is real and can be falsely convincing, but we have hope in Christ. His Word brings us clarity in confusion and guidance for our lives. As believers, we need to be in God’s Word and lean into godly advice that causes us to pursue the ways of Christ instead of the lies of the world.

Reflect



How does God’s Word help you deal with the devil’s lies?



How do you determine what truth is? Why is it important to know what you believe?

Respond

Lord, help me this week to evaluate who I am listening to and how it is impacting my life as a believer. Give me eyes to see things the way You see them.

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DAY 02

Read

Take some time and check out **1 Peter 1:22-25**.

Have you ever gone to the pantry in your kitchen, only to realize you were out of your favorite snack food? You were hoping something would last, only to be disappointed that someone ate the last crumb. The world has a lot of this in it. You see things all the time that are screaming for your attention, promising to satisfy something you are looking for, only to be lied to.

So, does anything last? According to God's Word, yes! And it is His Word, the Bible. Here, in 1 Peter 1:22-25, we read a promise that His Word is not like grass and flowers that can wither and die. Peter quotes Isaiah 40:8 in this passage, which reminds us that the Bible is alive, active, and enduring. Since God's Word endures, you can trust Scripture to reveal God and lead you to know Him more. Pursue His Word instead of the world's lies. The Bible reveals who God is and leads us to live the life He intended us to live.

Reflect



Why do you believe people tend to look for temporary solutions for eternal answers?



How is the Bible different from any other book you will read?

Respond

Lord, help me to value Your Word above all else. Help me to spend time with You every day.

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DAY 03

Read

Take some time and check out **Psalm 1**.

How do you decide what you're going to do? We all have to make decisions. Sometimes, it's everyday choices like, "Do I want a cheeseburger for lunch or a chicken sandwich?" Other times, it's bigger decisions that need to be bathed in prayer. For some decisions, we need advice because we are unsure about what to do.

Psalm 1 gives us strong guidance on the paths we choose to take. In our main session, we saw Jesus lean into Scripture instead of the devil's temptation. This led to Jesus dealing with temptation and ultimately being ministered to. Psalm 1 helps us see that delighting in the Word of God will "bear fruit in its season" (v. 3). It doesn't promise us it will happen immediately, but it does promise it will happen. On the other hand, we see that "the way of the wicked leads to ruin" (v. 6). What way will you choose?

Reflect



How does obeying God's Word help you "bear good fruit"?



Why can't you choose the world and God?



Respond

Lord, help me this week to consider who I'm seeking advice from in my life. Then, allow me to see how my decisions are influencing the paths I choose to go down.

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DAY 04

Read

Take some time and check out **Deuteronomy 8:1-3**.

Matthew 4:1-11 parallels Jesus' experience in the wilderness with what God's people experienced in Deuteronomy 8:1-3. Some of these things include being in the wilderness, tested, and hungry. During one of Satan's temptations, he tried to convince Jesus to turn stone into bread. Jesus replied by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3.

This verse offers us incredible insight. Jesus was tempted to rely on physical food for His satisfaction—to use His divine nature for personal gain and comfort. Likewise, we can be tempted with things that won't last. Some of these things can include relationships, status, and what people think of us. At times, we are captivated by these thoughts. Yet, in this passage, we see a better way. We can overcome temptation by leaning on the truths of the Bible. What is your life's foundation?

Reflect



Why are people tempted to trust in things that won't last?



How does following Jesus offer you a better way to live?

Respond

Lord, help me this week to consider what foundation I am building my life on—the lies of the world or the truth of God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE

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DAY 05

Read

Take some time and check out **Matthew 6:24**.

What we serve, we value. In Matthew 4:10, we read about how Jesus sternly reminded Satan of the call to serve God alone. At this point, Satan had tempted Jesus three times, and enough was enough. The heart of the matter was allegiance and worship to God alone. This is also the driving force behind what we choose to do and what we choose not to do.

In Matthew 6:24, we are reminded that we can't have it both ways—loving Jesus and the world. We will end up serving one or the other. Is God first in your life? It's not a sin to have things; it is a sin for things to have us. We live in a world that thrives on more—more things, more recognition . . . more. But is *more* the answer? In terms of worldly consumption, no. In terms of more of Jesus, absolutely. Love, pursue, and serve Him alone.

Reflect



Think about this statement: What you serve, you value. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?



Why must Jesus be your main priority? What happens if He is not?



Respond

Lord, help me this week to consider if You are first in my life. Who am I serving—the world or Jesus? Who or what has my heart?