

TITLE AND NUMBER: The temptation of Christ



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness 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 shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him 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.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. '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.

What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage tells us that Jesus knows the challenges we experience in our lives. He himself faced temptation. Jesus was hungry after not eating for 40 days and then the devil showed up. We might be a lot more tempted to make bad decisions when we are weak or vulnerable. Jesus models how to resist temptation. He says 'It is written...' - He defeats temptation by quoting directly from Scripture. If we are to avoid bad choices, we must know the Word of God.

When Jesus is challenged to throw himself off a great height to prove God would rescue Him, the devil quotes from Psalm 91 ('he will command his angels concerning you'). This shows that Scripture can be misquoted or used out of context in a way that confuses us or justifies our wrong choices. We need to know God's Word well to know when it is being used incorrectly.

Knowing God's truth, which is found in the Bible, helps us identify the lies and doubts that lead us into bad decisions. When we don't give in to temptation through speaking and obeying God's Word, God succeeds in our life. But, to be able to stand firm on God's Word, we must know it. That is why reading and meditating on Scripture is so important.

Reflections:

- How could you use God's word to fight temptations you are experiencing in your life?
- Verse 1 tells us that the Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Why did the Spirit do this? (Hint: The word for temptation can be translated as 'test').
- What happened after the devil left Jesus?

If you would like help to read the Bible daily, why not ask a chaplain for some Bible notes?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

