

THE WORDS AND WORKS OF KING JESUS

PART 3: THE TEMPTATIONS OF THE KING

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info/matthew



When it comes to confronting the greatest temptations of life, Jesus has already been there. He met the worst Satan can give and was victorious. When Jesus was at his weakest and Satan at his strongest, Jesus still won!

Scripture reminds us that Jesus is eager to share that victory with those who belong to him when they are tempted.

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure." (1 Cor. 10:13 NLT)

In the same way, we can have victory over temptation only by resisting in the same way that Jesus resisted...by being in complete obedience to God and his Word. Jesus faced temptation to the very limit of Satan's power, and he resisted to that very limit. Jesus did not allow temptation to develop into desire, much less sin (Jas. 1:13-15). He did not let the temptation go any further but resisted immediately. He simply stood firmly in his Father's will and said no!¹

¹ Could Jesus have sinned? There are two views on this question; yes, he could have sinned ("peccability view") and no, he could not have sinned (impeccability view). Interested readers can read more on this question at www.GotQuestions.Org.

I. REFLECTING ON THE TEXT: MATTHEW 4:1-25

Parallel passages: Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

A. The temptations of the King (4:1-11)

The word temptation (Gk. *peirazō*) is used in both a good and a bad sense. In the good sense it means to test, to try, to prove. In the bad sense, it means to tempt, to seduce, to entice, and to pull someone away from God into the way of sin, of self, and of Satan (Matt. 4:1; 1 Cor. 7:5; 1 Thess. 3:5; Gal. 6:1; Jas 1:13-14).²

1. In each of these three temptations how did Jesus resist Satan? How does this relate to Christians today?
 - He used the truth of scripture without taking it out of context as Satan did in Matt. 4:6
 - In Matthew 4:6 Satan tried using scripture (a blatant misuse of Psalm 91:11-12 on Jesus). Jesus quoted scripture in context as a reply
 - Using scripture is the act of confronting Satan's lies with God's truth
 - It applies to us today by using the truth of God's Word to defend against Satan's three tactics: doubt, deception, and desire (Gk. *rhema*)
2. There will be times when you as a Christian will be weak. What does Hebrews 4:15-16 tell you about those times? What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 tell you?
 - Because Jesus has experienced every possible temptation, he knows what it's like when we experience them
 - He is a high priest who is touched by our feelings of weaknesses
 - We will never be tempted more than what we can bear
 - There will always be a way of escape for each temptation
3. What was Satan's response to Jesus in Matt. 4:10-11? What does James 4:7 instruct you to do when Satan tempts you?
 - He left
 - Jas. 4:7. Submit to God...resist Satan...and he will flee

B. Jesus begins to preach the gospel of the kingdom (4:12-25)

After his successful encounter with Satan and on the basis of his victory, Jesus began to preach about the kingdom of heaven. Now that John the Baptist had been put in prison, Jesus took over the preaching of the gospel, knowing that he would inevitably suffer, as John did.

1. What did Jesus mean by the "kingdom of heaven"?

² (Leadership Ministries Worldwide 70)

- The kingdom of heaven is the sphere of God's dominion over those who belong to him. ("heaven: vs. "God" because of Jewish audience)
 - The kingdom of heaven has come near to people in the person of Jesus the Messiah. (See 3:17)
2. Great crowds of people followed Jesus everywhere he went. What was it about Jesus that attracted them?
- They followed Jesus most likely because of his miracles which brought healing and comfort
 - His Messiahship (kingship) was most likely not recognized yet

II. APPLYING THE TEXT

When facing temptations, we are to:

- A. **Recognize** the devil's tactics.
- B. **Resist** like Jesus did.
- C. **Rely** on Jesus, especially in times of weakness.
- D. **Remember** that we are most vulnerable when we are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired (H.A.L.T).

III. CHALLENGE FOR NEXT WEEK



Read Matthew Chapter 5. What is a "beatitude" and how does it relate to you?