

# Matthew 4:1-11

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## SERMON NOTES

### Matthew

The King and His Kingdom

### Matthew 4:1-11

The Temptation of Christ

#### Matthew 4 reminds us:

1. The temptation of Christ was part of God's plan.
2. Temptation is a part of everyday life.
3. The enemy of our souls has a strategy.
4. Jesus shows us how to resist temptation.

*"Why does God allow temptation? That is a question Christians often ask. Well, He allowed it for Jesus. And after a high spiritual experience, such as the baptism undoubtedly was for Jesus, temptation frequently comes, and properly comes. It sorts out the emotional 'high' from the reality of spiritual conquest and growth. We are not meant to live on spiritual highs. We are meant to live on the bread that comes from God alone, even if it is bread in the desert. God deliberately allows temptation. Its arrival does not mean that God's blessing has evaporated. It simply allows the ephemeral and the emotional to be separated from the lasting. Temptation builds spiritual muscle."*

- Michael Green, *The Bible Speaks Today*

*"According to the Bible, the primary way to define sin is not just the doing of bad things, but the making of good things into ultimate things. It is seeking to establish a sense of self by making something else more central to your significance, purpose, and happiness than your relationship with God."*

- Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*

"No temptation has overtaken you but such is common to man."

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

*“The typical temptation of the young is lust; of the middle-aged, ambition; and of the elderly, bitterness. Actually, all three drives are similar and related: ambition is a refined lust, bitterness a disappointed one.”*

- Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew*

*“Satan’s aim was to entice Jesus to use powers rightly His but which He had voluntarily abandoned to carry out the Father’s mission. Reclaiming them for Himself would deny the self-abasement implicit in His mission and in the Father’s will.”*

- D.A. Carson, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*

*“Temptation is so strong in our lives precisely because it’s not about us. Temptation is an assault by the demonic powers on the rival empire of the Messiah. That’s why conversion to Christ doesn’t diminish the power of temptation - as we often assume - but actually, counterintuitively, ratchets it up. If you bear the Spirit of the One the powers rage against, they will seek to tear down the icon of the Crucified they see embedded in you.”*

- Russell Moore, *Tempted and Tried*

“How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to Your word.

With my whole heart I seek You;

Let me not wander from Your commandments!

I have stored up Your word in my heart,

That I might not sin against You.”

- *Psalm 119:9-11*

*“Saying ‘no’ to something that our hearts long for can be a powerful display of the beauty and worth of what we are saying ‘yes’ to in exchange.”*

- Rachel Gilson