

Temptation

Joseph Carty / General

Friend of Jesus / Temptation / Matthew 4:1–11

One of the first experience that Jesus had upon starting his public ministry is the fasting and temptation in the wilderness. What can we, mere mortals learn from this experience fo Jesus?

How to Have Victory Over Temptation.

- Temptation
 - do you struggle
 - do you fail
- Want recipe
 - for success
- Watch Jesus...
- Context...
- Just finished Baptism

Led by Spirit

Matthew 4:1 **ESV**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- Baptism
 - does not protect you

Spirit Leading into Temptation?

- God does not tempt

James 1:13 **ESV**

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

- Why would the spirit
 - lead him here?

- Mark more emphatic

Mark 1:12 **ESV**

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

- Spirit drove him
 - to wilderness
 - not to temptation
- Yes, temptation awaits
 - God knows.
 - How do prepare?

1. Fasting

Matthew 4:2 ESV

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

- Key defense
 - against temptation:
 - **FASTING!**
- Tempted whole time:

Mark 1:12–13 ESV

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

- Tempted the whole time
 - fasting whole time.

He was Hungry

Matthew 4:2 *ESV*

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

- Hungry
 - Hangry

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- Do not recommend
 - fasting for 40
 - Angels helped them.
- Why 40 days?
 - Elijah Fasted

- Moses Fasted
- Nineveh Judgment
- Spies in Canaan
- Flood Rain
- Symbol
 - God's Power
- Fasting typically
 - makes stronger
 - Spiritually.
- Verses about fasting

In Tune with God

Acts 13:2 ESV

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- God Spoke to them..

Acts 14:23 ESV

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

2. Repentance or Surrender

(Humility)

[Joel 2:12](#) (ESV)

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

- Like Nineveh

Jonah 3:5 ESV

And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

3. Clear Mind

Daniel 1:12 ESV

“Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.

- After 3 years...

Daniel 1:20 ESV

And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

- Simple food
- Wisdom

4. Special Prayer

Esther 4:16 ESV

“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

- Power of fasting...
 - lost discipline
 - in our culture.
- Fasting is good
 - But...
- Limits to it...
 - 40 days!!!
- Don't recommend...
 - Angels helped them...
- Satan comes at

- weakest point...

Opportune time

- At end of temptations
 - Jesus wins
 - Satan loses
 - Satan leaves
 - Key words...

[Luke 4:13](#) (ESV)

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an **opportune time**.

- Opportune time
 - Satan is not finished
 - He will be back
- When?
 - Opportune time

- He comes to us
 - the same way.

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting

- Second tool:

2. Limit the Opportune Times

- There is always moments
 - you know when
 - he comes knocking.
- Find ways to decrease
 - your openness to attack.

1st Temptation

Matthew 4:3 **ESV**

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

- Few key ideas
- Many temptations
 - for Jesus
 - “If”

“If You Are the Son of God”

- What is say?
 - prove it.
- How?
 - Use supernatural power
 - for your own good.

Rock to bread?

- IDK about you,
 - Not a temptation
 - I struggle with.

- Don't have power
 - to do that...

Hebrews 4:15 ESV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- Tempted like us.
 - Temped unlike us...
- Temped to fail
 - use your power...
 - for yourself...

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting
 2. Limit Opportune Times
- Jesus responds

- 3rd key.

3. “It is Written”

Matthew 4:4 ESV

But he answered, “It is written,

“ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

- Every temptation
 - Jesus answers:
 - “It Is Written”
- Power in Word
 - Devotions
 - Study it
 - Memorize it
 - sword of spirit
 - use it

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting
2. Limit Opportune Times
3. It Is Written

2nd Temptation

Matthew 4:5-6 ESV

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“ ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

- What is the temptation here?

Jump!

- Once again:
- “If you are the son of God”

- Satan continues
 - use your power
- This one different
 - we could be
 - tempted by this idea.
- Presumption.
 - come back to that.
- Look what Satan does...

Satan goes to church

- Satan knows scripture!!!
 - Saw Jesus weapon
 - Scripture
 - Used against Him...

- Quotes two verses...
 - twisted
 - misquoted
- Quote whole passage

[Psalm 91:1-12](#) (ESV)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,

nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,

but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes

and see the recompense of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

the Most High, who is my refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

- Does it teach:
 - jump off building?

- Leaves out part

- of the verse:

“to guard you in all your ways”

- Teaching?

- Jesus protect you

- in all your ways.

- Throughout day.

- throughout life.

- Jumping from building...

- Not part of package!!!

- Just because someone

- has a verse,

- does not make

- them correct.

- Requirement,

- know your word.
- Satan will use
 - it against you.
- If you don't know it.
 - can't see through lies...
 - False teachings.

Presumption

- Back to Presumption.

› How does satan use

› presumption today?

- Jesus answer:

Matthew 4:7 **ESV**

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

- Scripture again.
 - applicable text.

- Don't test God.

Premeditated Sin

- God will forgive you.
 - Really?
- If you survive it...?

3rd Temptation

Matthew 4:8-9 ESV

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

- Observations
 - Satan doesn't get tired.
 - Always new ideas.

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting

2. Limit Opportune Times

3. It Is Written

- Fourth key:

4. Understand How Temptation Works.

James 1:14–15 **ESV**

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Desire with us.
- Jesus knew
 - prophecies about king
 - who he could be
 - should be
 - human desire
 - to be king...
 - He WAS king

- Jesus was tempted.
 - wasn't a play.
- › He could have failed.

Orientation

- people constantly asking me
- Same-sex attraction.
- Orientation is Temptation.
- All humans have
 - broken orientation
 - all oriented toward sin.

James 1:14–15 ESV

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- Desire is in us!!!
- We are all broken
 - Oriented wrongly.
- Orientation is not sin
 - Orientation is temptation.
- We all have choice
 - will a practice
 - this temptation
- Or choose
 - deny my orientation
 - deny my desire
 - choose Christ's will.
- Back to Christ's Temptation

Matthew 4:8-9 ESV

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

- Luke reads
 - slightly different:

Luke 4:6 ESV

and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.

Whose Authority?

“to you I will give all this authority”

- Whose was it?
- Satan says
 - it is his
 - and

“It has been delivered to me”

› Adam and Eve lost it.

› Job walking to and fro

› Have the World

Gain the Whole World

- Jesus said:

Mark 8:36 ESV

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

- Temptation here:
 - gain whole world.
 - have it all.
- What must he do
 - to have world?
 - Satan said:

“Fall down and worship me”

- Christians do that today.

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- Interesting

- verse about
 - gain world
 - lose soul
- Read in context:
 - Cost of discipleship.

Mark 8:34–37 ESV

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?

- Cost of discipleship?
 - What does it cost
 - to be follower
 - of Jesus?
- Everything
 - your life.

- Yet surprise
 - if you give it
 - to Jesus
 - get life back.
- Give it to Satan
 - lose it all.

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting
2. Limit Opportune Times
3. It Is Written
4. Understand How Temptation Works

- Jesus had enough.
 - Next words:
 - 5th tool...

5. Be Gone Satan

Matthew 4:10 ESV

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve.’ ”

- “It is written”
 - AGAIN
- Want to be successful
 - spend time in word!
- Be Gone
 - Leave
 - You have not power here.

John 14:30–31 ESV

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

- By God's grace
 - though his power.
- You can say,

Be Gone, Satan!

Conclusion

- Temptation are tough
 - we are all broken
 - Satan is coming for us.

Appeal

- By God's grace
- Through His power
- Be an overcomer
 - Like Jesus
- Use the Tools:

Tools Against Temptation

1. Fasting
2. Limit Opportune Times
3. It Is Written
4. Understand How Temptation Works
5. Be Gone Satan