

# **THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

MATTHEW 4:1-11; LUKE 4:1-13

*FOR DEEPER STUDY*

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Jesus was clearly going through Deuteronomy in his devotions at the time the devil tempted him. All his responses come from that book. He could have simply told Satan off, saying, “You’re wrong! Scram!” right from the get-go. But he didn’t. Scripture instead shows us a savior who relied upon Scripture.

But why? After all, Jesus is “the Word made flesh.” So what’s the point?

Remember that Jesus is setting an example for us to follow. He is telling us that the Word of God is always the ultimate authority—the ultimate defense against the devil’s temptations.

### **Temptation #1: Stone to Bread**

*Matthew 4:1-3; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-3*

1. Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 16:7-9. What’s the real sin here if Jesus turns the stone to bread?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When have you been tempted this way in your own life?

### **...But on Every Word**

*Deuteronomy 8:1-5*

3. “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” How do you apply this mentality to your own life?

### **Temptation #2: Leap of Faith**

*Matthew 4:4-6; Luke 4:4, 9-10*

4. Read Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12. Satan can “use” Scripture too! How can God’s words have power to fight Satan, then? How can the Word have power at all?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Read John 14:26; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:12. When have you been tempted to distort the Word of God to suit your own views? How can we avoid doing this as believers?

### **Testing at Meribah**

*Deuteronomy 6:16; Exodus 17:1-7*

6. Read Psalm 78, focusing on vv11-24. What is the deeper sin of the devil’s second temptation?

7. Read Psalm 77:10-12. What strategy can you use to trust God more?
  
8. As the writer, I don't simply insert flashbacks randomly. They're always related to the event I'm dramatizing. So what is the relationship between the water from a rock flashback and the dramatization?

**Temptation #3: All the Kingdoms**

*Matthew 4:7-11; Luke 4:12, 5-8, 13*

9. This temptation is more "obvious" than the others in that it is clear that what the devil asks is a sin. Nonetheless, Christians are just as guilty of succumbing to it as they are to the other two. What is the deeper sin here?
  
10. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16; Revelation 14:9-12; Romans 12:1. What are some ways we can guard against rationalizing our way into this sin?
  
11. Read Jeremiah 31:32-34; Isaiah 42:6-7 (quoted in this dramatization). 40 years in the wilderness for the Israelites. 40 days in the wilderness for Jesus. What is the significance of Jesus's experience being a parallel to that of the Israelites?
  
12. Why was it necessary for Jesus to experience temptation in the first place?