**Matthew 4:1-4**

1. We want to understand the enemy’s

2. We want to understand the specific of each temptation

3. We will study Jesus’ to the temptation

**Matthew 4:1-4**

**1***Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.* **2***For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.* **3***During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”*

**4***But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone,  
  but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

Satan’s goal is to lead Jesus to

This fight is all about who gets the …Because whom you obey, you glorify

**Matthew 5:16**

*In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

* By our good works, we’re giving testimony that God is the One Who is worthy to receive honor and obedience
* Conversely, when we disobey God by giving into Satan’s temptations, or to our flesh, we give Satan glory at God’s expense

**Ezekiel 20:39**

*“As for you, O people of Israel, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Go right ahead and worship your idols, but sooner or later you will obey me and will stop bringing shame on my holy name by worshiping idols.*

* Satan knows our new spirit in Christ wants to obey God, to please Him
  + If he’s is going to pull us off track, he needs a hook, some distraction or motivation that he can use to move us away from obedience
    - And that leads us to a study of his tactics
    - Satan has two primary tactics to cause us to disobey God, and both are evident in his temptations of Christ
  + First, the Word of God
    - Notice how he begins speaking to Jesus by saying “If You are the Son of God…”
    - This is similar to the statement he used to deceive Woman in the Garden

**Genesis 3:1**

*The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”*

* As he did in the Garden, Satan calls into question the trustworthiness of the Word of God
  + In this case, Satan wonders if Jesus is truly the Son of God promised in the Word, probably thinking of Psalm 2

**Psalms 2:7-9**

**7***The king proclaims the Lord’s decree: “The Lord said to me, ‘You are my son. Today I have become your Father.* **8***Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession.* **9***You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.’”*

* The Word says the Messiah will be the Son of God
  + And the Father has just declared at the baptism of John that Jesus is that long awaited Son of God
  + So now, Satan casts doubt on that Word, asking if it’s really true
  + In other words, perhaps the Father was lying at the river, or maybe He lied back in Psalm 2
  + Either way, we can’t be sure the Word of God is correct, can we?
* Satan’s second major tactic: tempting us to
  + Satan uses temptation to motivate us to act in disobedience
* Satan’s temptations can be classified into three categories, according to John

**1 John 2:16**

*For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.*

* John says that everything that is of the fallen world can be grouped into one of these three categories
  + The lusts of the flesh are any desire of our for gratification
  + Principally, we’re talking about things like food, drink, sexual pleasure, chemical addictions, anything that stimulates our body
* Secondly, John says we may be tempted by the lust of the eyes
  + - Lust of the eyes are any tendency to let the things of this world

and us

* + We all have stuff and we all have interests and hobbies
    - These things are not evil in themselves
    - The question is, do they interfere with your spiritual walk?
    - And when they do, then it means they have become a tool of the enemy to bring you into disobedience
* Finally, John says we can be tempted by the pride of life
  + This category includes anything that enflames our ego or our vanity or magnifies our sense of - beyond what is due
* Now all three of these categories of temptation target our physical world in some area, whether our body, mind or emotions
  + And therefore, we could label these three areas of temptation as temptations of the body, the mind and the soul (emotions)
    - Satan entices our body by feeding its
    - He distracts our mind with worthless
    - He enflames our soul with delusions of
  + Satan’s goal, remember, is not merely to manipulate us, but to lead us into disobeying the Father, leading to an end of what God is building
    - As James said

**James 1:13-15**

**13***When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;*

**14***but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.*

**15***Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

* + - Satan asks Jesus to reproduce the miracle that God performed for Israel during the Exodus, summarized in Psalm 78

**Psalms 78:17-25**

**17***Yet they kept on sinning against him,  
    rebelling against the Most High in the desert.***18***They stubbornly tested God in their hearts,  
    demanding the foods they craved.***19***They even spoke against God himself, saying,  
    “God can’t give us food in the wilderness.***20***Yes, he can strike a rock so water gushes out,  
    but he can’t give his people bread and meat.”***21***When the Lord heard them, he was furious.  
    The fire of his wrath burned against Jacob.  
    Yes, his anger rose against Israel,***22***for they did not believe God  
    or trust him to care for them.***23***But he commanded the skies to open;  
    he opened the doors of heaven.***24***He rained down manna for them to eat;  
    he gave them bread from heaven.***25***They ate the food of angels!  
    God gave them all they could hold.*

* Now that we have an understanding of Satan’s tactics, let’s take a look at Jesus’ response in v.4
  + Mustering all His strength and fighting a mind dulled by lack of fuel, Jesus recalls the perfect Scriptural rebuttal from Deuteronomy 8:3

**Deuteronomy 8:3**

*Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.*

* In Deut 8:3, the Lord said that before He gave Israel manna, God purposely allowed His people to go hungry for a time
* He delayed their provision of manna for a time, so their stomachs began to growl, and it was a test of their
* He did so to teach His people an important lesson
  + God was teaching Israel that their chief concern shouldn’t have been sustaining their physical lives
  + Because God could bring them bread out of thin air anytime He desired
  + When God said manna would appear, it appeared
* The lesson was: my Word and good things will follow

**Matthew 6:33**

*Seek the Kingdom of Godabove all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

* On the other hand, continue in your ungrateful, disobedient unbelieving hearts and destruction will follow
* While Israel was seeking for food for their bodies, they were ignoring their need to nourish their souls
* God wasn’t asking Israel to choose between physical bread or spiritual bread
  + He was asking them to put these needs in the proper priority
  + We should seek to please God above pleasing ourselves, even in matters of food
  + When we seek to fulfill our physical needs above our spiritual needs, we sin
* Which is why Jesus quotes this verse to refute Satan’s request
  + Deut 8:3 teaches that obedience to God is even more important than supplying our physical needs
  + And since God had instructed Jesus to fast, He could not break it without sinning
* Secondly, that passage affirms Jesus as God’s Son
  + In Exodus and elsewhere in scripture, God calls Israel His firstborn son
  + Deuteronomy 8:3 teaches that God’s “son”, Israel, were made to experience a fast for a time in the wilderness as a test of their hearts
  + This verse can also be understood to be an indirect reference to the Messiah Himself—That God’s Son was made to fast in the wilderness too, as a test of His heart
  + What a perfect response
* Keep in mind, Jesus brought this Scripture to mind using the same mental faculties God has given to each of us
  + Jesus didn’t have His iPad nearby with a convenient search box so He could locate that perfect passage on the fly
    - Jesus would have had the entire Old Testament memorized
    - He had to know it well enough to recall it even at the conclusion of a 40-day fast
  + On the other hand, we know Jesus was uniquely prepared by the Father
    - The Gospels tell us that Jesus was profoundly blessed with spiritual wisdom and insight, even as a young man
    - So clearly, we are not Jesus’ equal and that’s not my point
  + Jesus still had to learn the things He knew as He grew up
    - They weren’t downloaded into His head like a software program
    - And He wasn’t born knowing them
    - He still had to put in the necessary time and make the required effort to absorb these truths
  + For example, Luke ends his account of Jesus’ upbringing with these words

**Luke 2:52**

*Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.*

* Notice Jesus “grew” in wisdom and in favor with God
* Therefore, we must see His brilliant response in this moment not as some superhuman magic trick beyond our grasp
* Rather, we need to appreciate what a Godly, dedicated and faithful Man can accomplish when He is thoroughly nourished on the Word of God
* We will never be Jesus, but we can be like Jesus in many things
  + Satan preyed upon the weakness of Jesus’ flesh and tried to use it to lead Jesus against the will of the Father
    - And instead, Jesus allowed His physical body to continue suffering, not willing to satisfy it
    - And instead, He made his priority pleasing God by obedience to His Word
  + That’s not something beyond our reach
    - We need to understand this account as it was intended to be understood
    - It’s an account of a man resisting the enemy by maintaining self-control, while making obedience the Father His highest priority
    - This is about a man who knew that in time, the Father would satisfy His body’s need for food when the time was right
  + Later in this Gospel, we will hear Jesus teaching these words

**Matthew 6:25-32**

**25***“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?* **26***Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?* **27***Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?* **28***“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing,* **29***yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.* **30***And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?* **31***“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’* **32***These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.*

* When we study this passage in a few weeks, remember what Jesus experiences in His first temptation
  + And don’t think He couldn’t identify with His own teaching
  + Jesus knew exactly what it’s like to be in desperate need of a meal
  + He understood the temptation to suppose that God wasn’t going to provide
  + That He had to do something for Himself, something that would have been contrary to the will of the Father
  + Something that was contrary to righteousness
* Jesus lived according to the same Word He preached to His followers
  + Jesus sought first the Kingdom, that is to obtain His rightful place over that Kingdom
  + And He sought for the Father’s righteousness, to obey the Father’s commands even above His own needs
  + Because Jesus knew the other things He needed, like food, would come in time…God would provide them when the test was over

**Matthew 10:32-33**

**32***“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.* **33***But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.*