**Matthew 4:5-11**

**Matthew 4:5-7**

**5***Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple,*

**6***and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,*

*‘He will order his angels to protect you.  
And they will hold you up with their hands  
    so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”*

**7***Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”*

Satan’s first temptation was directed at the lust of the flesh

The next temptation in Matthew’s Gospel is directed at the

* + Satan takes Jesus from the wilderness to the “holy city”, which is Jerusalem
  + Jesus is standing on the highest of the temple
    - The highest point of the temple is the southeast corner of the city walls
    - The SE corner of the city wall is also the SE corner of the temple compound, and it’s the highest place of the temple
  + From that place, you can look down on the rocks of the Kidron Valley, about 170 ft below
    - A fall from that place would certainly be fatal
    - And from this vantage point, Satan tempts Jesus using the same basic method we’ve already outlined
* First, Satan questions Jesus’ again, asking “If You are the Son of God…”
  + Notice, the question itself presumes that Jesus is the Son of God
    - Satan never asks this question of anyone else, because he knows Jesus is the Son of God
    - Remember, the goal isn’t to verify Jesus’ identity…it’s to get Jesus to

the Father

* + - So, because Satan knows Jesus is the Son of God, he’s intent on tempting Jesus to sin
  + Satan questions the trustworthiness of God’s Word and then proposes another test to verify Jesus’ identity
    - In the first temptation, Satan challenged Jesus to perform a miracle that would demonstrate Jesus was divine
    - So Satan was testing Jesus
    - But now, Satan challenges the Father Himself to prove Jesus is His Son

**Psalm 91:11-14**

**11***For he will order his angels  
    to protect you wherever you go.***12***They will hold you up with their hands  
    so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.***13***You will trample upon lions and cobras;  
    you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!*

**14***The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me.  
    I will protect those who trust in my name.*

* This psalm makes general promises to God’s people, but it makes specific promises to the Messiah, so we understand it to be a Messianic prophecy
* The Father promises to give His angels charge over the Messiah when He comes, protecting Him as He goes about His mission
* Psalm 91—the Father promised that no harm would prevent Jesus from fulfilling His mission
  + Specifically, in v.11, the Father promises that the angels would guard Jesus in all His ways
  + And in v.12, that they would not even allow Jesus to fall from stumbling on a stone
* Satan twisted this promise in a subtle way:
  + Satan suggests that the Father is promising Jesus that He can’t be hurt under any circumstances
  + Satan’s deception is taking God’s Word out of context so that it lacks important details
    - Notice in v.14, the psalm says Jesus will be delivered from harm because Jesus has loved the Father
    - And loving the Father is defined in Scripture as obedience to God’s Word

**1 John 5:3**

*Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.*

* Jesus was protected because He the Father
  + Because Jesus obeys the Father, the Father responds by protecting Jesus
  + Had Jesus not been faithful to obey the Father, the Father would not have been obligated to protect Jesus
* The Word Satan quoted was true, but the way Satan attempted to apply it was false, because it called upon Jesus to challenge God’s authority
  + By jumping off the wall, Jesus would be dictating the timing and circumstances under which the Father must fulfill His Own Word
  + The Father had a specific fulfillment in mind for the words of Psalm 91
  + And we can be sure the Father didn’t have this situation in mind
* He was speaking about protecting Christ from His enemies and from the every day dangers of life on earth
  + He wasn’t giving Jesus carte blanche to throw Himself in harm’s way to force God to respond
  + That’s turning God into a , forcing Him to do our bidding
* If Jesus had agreed to Satan’s demands, Jesus would have been testing God, as Jesus says in v.7
* Why would Jesus be tempted to do such a thing in the first place?
  + – that’s the temptation Satan is offering here: the temptation of the pride of life
    - Pride is judging ourselves more of honor than we truly are, while seeking others to affirm our self-view
    - It’s an insidious and deceptively powerful evil working in our hearts
    - It’s so dangerous because we usually can’t recognize it in ourselves
    - Because we dress up our pride to look virtuous, telling ourselves our motives are selfless
  + For example, we fish for compliments, but then pretend to be embarrassed when we receive them
    - We maneuver to be the center of attention at the party…then act surprised when everyone stops to listen to us
    - We conspire to receive credit for that team project at work…then look magnanimous when we give a token acknowledgement to our co-workers
    - We drive slowly through the parking lot, hoping friends will admire us in our new car…but then pretend not to notice them staring
    - And in the end, we’re proud of our
* Pride may be Satan’s most powerful deception
  + Satan has used this temptation to convince millions of believers that God wants to make us rich or free us from all disease
    - That we have a to these things, because God has

us these things in His Word

* + - That’s the primary error of the prosperity gospel: implying that God serves us, instead of us serving God
  + The prosperity heresy asserts that God has promised wealth to us and it will come our way if we just claim it
    - It’s the same manipulation Satan tried with Psalm 91
    - Suggesting that God will show up when want Him to
    - That we can force God to fulfill His Word to us according to our desires AND on our terms
  + The most common word the Scriptures use for believers is “”, or in Greek duolos, which literally means “slave”
    - Christ followers have been bought, redeemed, with a heavy price: Jesus’ blood

**1 Corinthians 6:20**

*For God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.*

**Luke 17:7-10**

**7***“When a servant comes in from plowing or taking care of sheep, does his master say, ‘Come in and eat with me’?*

**8***No, he says, ‘Prepare my meal, put on your apron, and serve me while I eat. Then you can eat later.’*

**9***And does the master thank the servant for doing what he was told to do? Of course not.*

**10***In the same way, when you obey me you should say, ‘We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty.’”*

* That’s the Godly perspective, a humble perspective that sees ourselves in a realistic light
  + It’s the heart that knows God alone is worthy of glory and honor
  + He alone deserves praise, and whatever we have to offer the world, if it’s worth anything, comes from God Himself
  + Our spiritual act of worship is to make ourselves a living

* Satan attempted to tempt Jesus using the lust of His flesh and the pride of life
  + He attempted to challenge Jesus’ power and to challenge the Father’s promises
    - In both cases, Satan twisted a truth found in God’s Word to make a claim that Scripture itself does not make
    - And in both cases, Jesus answered Satan’s lie with the true view of Scripture
  + Scripture never itself
    - If we think two verses are arguing opposite conclusions, it means we don’t understand one or the other
    - In this case, Satan misused Scripture making it appear to say something it didn’t
    - And many times, the so-called “contradictions” or “tensions” in Scripture are actually self-imposed
    - We’ve caused it because we aren’t interpreting Scripture properly somewhere

**Matthew 4:8-11**

**8***Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.*

**9***“I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”*

**10***“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say,*

*‘You must worship the Lord your God  
    and serve only him.’”*

**11***Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.*

* For his final temptation, Satan again moves Jesus (or gives Him a vision) from a very high mountain
  + - From this high point, Satan gives Jesus a vision of the all the kingdoms of the world
    - And he tells Jesus it’s within Satan’s power to give these to Jesus if Jesus would worship Satan as god
  + Satan’s mention of “kingdoms” referred to all the
    - Satan is, for a while, the prince of the fallen world, as Paul says in Ephesians 2
    - And Satan is the ruler of the world’s forces of darkness, as Paul says in Ephesians 6
  + Notice what Satan says to God in Job:

**Job 1:6-7**

**6***One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.*

**7***“Where have you come from?” the Lord asked Satan.*

*Satan answered the Lord, “I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that’s going on.”*

* + Jesus as our New Adam, has come to redeem the world from this curse by His blood shed on the cross
    - That plan required Jesus to die a painful death on a cross
    - Enduring the shame to pay for Adam’s mistake and the sin of all who have followed Adam
  + When Jesus completes this plan, He will receive an , the Bible says
    - The Father has promised Jesus an inheritance of the entire earth,
    - But like any inheritance, it can only be received upon a
  + Jesus’ death was required before His inheritance was available
    - Jesus redeemed creation from Satan by His death
    - And Jesus was resurrected to receive back His own inheritance, which he gladly shares with the children of God
    - All believers share in Christ’s inheritance, which we receive when we too are
    - Our share of Christ’s inheritance is a portion of the world, a portion of the Kingdom Jesus will set up on earth when He returns
* But here’s Satan offering Jesus a to getting His inheritance
  + Jesus could have all the kingdoms of the world if he would just worship Satan instead of the Father
    - Had Jesus done so, He could have avoided the cross, or at least that’s what Satan is proposing
    - Jesus could have received His inheritance without the need to die a painful death
  + Like everything Satan says, it’s a
    - Satan could have given Jesus the world of kingdoms to rule for a time
    - But it would not have been an eternal Kingdom
    - Jesus could have ruled over the world Satan gave Him only for as long as Satan Himself had authority over the world
  + But one day, Satan will lose his authority over the world
    - The Bible promises that Satan will be cut down in a day to come

**Ezekiel 28:19**

*All who knew you are appalled at your fate.  
    You have come to a terrible end,  
    and you will exist no more.”*

* Satan couldn’t offer Jesus what the Father was willing to give His Son if He obeyed
* The Father offered His Son an

**Psalms 45:6-7**

**6***Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.  
    You rule with a scepter of justice.***7***You love justice and hate evil.  
    Therefore God, your God, has anointed you,  
    pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.*

**Psalms 145:13**

*For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.  
    You rule throughout all generations.*

* Satan simply can’t give Jesus an everlasting Kingdom because Satan himself isn’t everlasting
* By taking Jesus to the top of a mountain, Satan hoped to provoke a of the eyes in Jesus
* By that lust, Jesus might try to gain that Kingdom in a way that brought glory to Satan, instead of the Father
* If the pride of life is the most powerful temptation we face, I think the lust of the eyes is the most common
  + The lust of the eyes is that sinful to have things that we aren’t supposed to have
    - Or to obtain legitimate things by illegitimate means
    - Don’t we all know that feeling too well?
  + We want that shiny object, but we don’t want to ask the Lord to grant it to us, or even ask if we should have it
    - We don’t ask, probably because we’re afraid His answer will be “No”
    - And we’re so captivated by the desire, we can’t walk away
    - Or we aren’t willing to for it to come in God’s timing, so we try to gain it our own way
    - The lust of the eyes leads to things like materialism, debt, fraud, deceit, bankruptcy
    - In short, it leads us to sin
    - Jesus’ answer is self-explanatory
    - It reinforces something we’ve said multiple times during this study: worshiping God means God
    - There is no way around it…we can’t claim to love and worship our Lord, while simultaneously giving Satan glory by following his temptations
    - The one you obey is the one you glorify
* There are no shortcuts in our obedience to God
  + Either we do what the Lord asks, according to His timing and in keeping with His instructions, or else we sin
    - Satan will often tell us that obeying God will mean giving up something fun, something we’ll miss
    - And it does mean forgoing a lustful desire that’s pulling us in the opposite direction
  + But it’s just another lie…because in eternity, we’re going to realize that

was our path to better things

* + - But when we allow the desires of this world to distract us from obeying God, it produces less joy, less peace, less satisfaction
    - We don’t have to wait until we reach Heaven to understand these things
  + Notice how Jesus brought this encounter to an end
    - In v.10, Jesus told Satan to go away
    - And as Jesus did, Satan fled and angels came to comfort Jesus
* Remember, Jesus fought Satan the same way we can fight Him, in the strength of our convictions, while resting on the truth of God’s word
  + And despite Satan’s wisdom and authority, His power over us is
    - Scripture says Satan can subject us to trials and he can bring temptations
    - But if we resist his schemes, he flees from us

**James 4:7** *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

* The promise of Scripture is that if we resist him and his efforts to tempt us, he has no option but to look elsewhere for his victims
* As powerful as Satan is and as crafty as he is, nevertheless, he depends on our if he’s going to succeed
  + He can only accomplish what we allow him to accomplish in our lives

**1 Peter 5:8-10**

**8***Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

**9***Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believersall over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.*

**10***In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.*

* Peter says appreciate and respect the power of the enemy as our adversary…don’t underestimate him
  + is all that’s required to defeat his schemes
* Temptations are resistible
* Peter adds, keep an eternal perspective on all this…live with eyes for

, understand what’s really going on here

* + Our battle with the enemy is one that started long before we came along
    - As Peter says, we’re experiencing the same suffering our Christian family have always known in the world
    - It’s part of following the Lord, of being His ambassadors to the fallen world
    - But after we have suffered for a little while, we’ll be called into Christ’s glory and all this will be behind us
    - So resist, stay alert, remain patient, and look forward to your eternal reward
  + In all these things, we are being like Christ, for He too experienced the temptations of Satan
    - Christ certainly knew suffering
    - Only Christ suffered without cause, for our sake, so that in the end we would have this victory over the enemy
    - Satan flees when we resist because he can’t win, because he’s already defeated
  + We give Christ glory through our obedience and by following His example