

Matthew 4:1-11 ESV

Jesus Won!

We Win Through Him!

Christians trust in Jesus and His finished work; then they follow Him!

Services: Sunday, March 5 at 8:00 & 10:45

Church Year: First Sunday in Lent – 2017

During Lent: **Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Adam was tempted AND he fell; because he fell, *we have all inherited sin and death!* Furthermore, *we cannot fix our horrible situation;* therefore, we need the loving action of the Almighty God!

In **Matthew 3:17**, God the Father said of Jesus, **“This is my beloved Son...”** Today, the devil will repeatedly challenge and tempt Jesus by saying, **“If you are the Son of God...”**

We now focus on Jesus’ temptation and victory in **Matthew 4:1-11**: **¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.** // His temptations will involve trust, a test, and worship!

- The First Temptation – TRUST**: **² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.** [*We don’t know all the details of Jesus’ fast, but, the point is this: He was hungry!*] **³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”** **⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from [literally, proceeding through] the mouth of God.”** // Jesus quoted from the OT; what

does His answer mean? Let's go to **Deuteronomy chapter 8**:

- a. Moses said to the Israelites: “[The LORD] humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna... that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD” (v. 3 ESV). Proud people say, “I am smart, I am strong, I worked, I made my money, and I bought my food.” But, *in the wilderness*, the Israelites could not provide for themselves!
 - b. A comment from The Lutheran Study Bible: “God’s provision of manna humbled the Israelites. ...they had to trust in God for their daily bread. God provided only enough manna for each day (Ex 16:4–5) in order that the Israelites might learn to rely fully on God for sustenance” (291).
 - c. Jesus to the devil: He basically said, “I’m not going to give up on my Father in heaven; I’m not going to provide my own food – even though I could.” *Jesus was tempted*, but He did NOT fall!
2. **The Second Temptation – A TEST**: ⁵ **Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him** *[literally, caused him to stand]* **on the pinnacle** *[highest point]* **of the temple** ⁶ **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.”** *[Take note: Even the devil knows the Word of God; he also knows how to use God’s Word to deceive us! So let us*

rightly know God's Word!]⁷ **Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not [put to the test / tempt] the Lord your God.'"**

- a. The Israelites tested the LORD at Massah:

^{ESV} **Exodus 17:1** "...there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' And Moses said to them... 'Why do you test the LORD?' ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses... '...you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah... because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'" // *What foolishness!* They had just ✓ crossed the Red Sea on dry ground and ✓ received special food from heaven, yet they spoke as if the LORD was not with them or aware of their situation 😊!

- b. Think about Jesus; did He escape death many times in His life? He did – *from the soldiers in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:13), from people wanting to throw Him down a cliff (Luke 4:29), and from people wanting to stone Him (John 10:32)*. It's one matter for God to intervene and save; it's a sinful matter to purposely put ourselves into a

bad situation; then expect God to save us! *Jesus was tempted, but He did NOT fall!*

3. **The Third Temptation – WORSHIP:** ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone [literally, depart / go away], Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” // The Bible tells us that Jesus, *after His resurrection*, was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18); He received that authority by following God’s will and going to the cross! *Even though He was tempted to take the easy way out – by worshiping the devil, Jesus did NOT fall into sin!*

Conclusion: ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came [or approached] and [ministered] to him. // Thus they were present; then, *when the devil left*, they came to Jesus and served Him, *thus helped Him according to His needs!*

Both Adam and Israel were tempted and fell; furthermore, we have inherited sin from them. Therefore, **Jesus came to be our Champion – to defeat sin, death, and the devil!** Jesus won; now, *through Jesus, we share in His victory!* So, FIRST, let us ever-trust in Him; then, SECOND, let us learn from Him and follow Him all the days of our lives!

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for winning on our behalf; let us ever-share in Your victory! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**