

# IT IS WRITTEN

Matthew 4:1-11

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9 with Matt.21:4-5)

## I. JESUS RESISTS THE DEVIL IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, "IT IS WRITTEN".

A. There is no contradiction between a Spirit-filled life and the Law of God (1 John 2:3; 3:24; Rev.12:17; 14:12). Obedience to the Law of God is an outworking of the Holy Spirit in one's life:

- **Matthew 3:** Jesus receives the Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17)
- **Matthew 4:** Resisting the devil in the power of the Spirit, "It is written"
- **Matthew 5:** Kingdom living, and the law in the life of the Christian (**5:17-20**)

B. Jesus answers Satan three times from the law (vv.1-11).

- Mt.4:4//Deut.8:3 ("He humbled you and let you be hungry...")
- Mt.4:7//Deut.6:16 ("You shall not put the LORD your God to the test...")
- Mt.4:10//Deut.6:13 ("You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him...")

Q.39 of the Shorter Catechism

What is the duty which God requireth of man? The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to his revealed will.

C. A Spirit filled life goes hand in hand with obedience to God's commandments (1 John 2:3; 3:24).

D. The first thing Matthew records coming out of Jesus' mouth after His baptism wasn't speaking in tongues, but quoting the Word of God.

## II. THE WORD OF GOD CONTAINS THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES. IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD ALWAYS LEADS TO SIN.

A. You know you are being tempted whenever a matter of obedience to God's Word arises in your life. Temptation deals with the question – will we replace obedience to God's Word with something or someone else?

B. Jesus does not use any supernatural means to resist the devil that are not available to you and me. Every person who has been born of the Spirit has the same power and the same Word to resist temptation.

C. Where did Jesus get His knowledge of the Scriptures? (**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**)

D. During Jesus earthly life He did not use His abilities and powers to serve Himself. He acquired wisdom and understanding in the exact same way that you and I do. How could Jesus sympathize with our temptations if He overcame His temptations by relying upon His divine knowledge of the law?

1. "Man shall not live on bread alone" (Matt.4:4).
2. Jesus' first answer emphasizes His humanity.
3. As a man, Jesus had to get His bread like we do "Give us this day our daily bread."
4. Bible verses that are gender inclusive ms. one of the main thrusts of Jesus' answer.
5. Jesus was unlike us in the sense that He had the ability to turn stones into bread. But He never used His ability in a *self-serving* way that would have diminished His identifying with us.

E. Christ's silencing the lies of the devil is a demonstration of His loving the LORD with all His heart, soul, and might. Christ's answering, "It is written" is the perfect example of a life committed in love to God and His commandments (Matthew 4:1-11; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 40:8).

### **III. JESUS LEARNED THE DISCIPLINES OF GODLINESS IN THE SAME WAY WE DO.**

A. Parents, teach your children the habits of a godly life (Psalm 78).

1. Don't wait for your children to one day say, "Mom and dad, I want to go to Bible study." Teach them from a young age.
2. Don't wait for your children to one day ask, "May I go to prayer meeting?" Begin training your children from a very young age. Prayer is a discipline that is learned.

A disciple is one who is disciplined.

B. Young people, if you in your heart know that you are not living 100% for the Lord, what are you waiting for?

C. Jesus didn't take upon himself human flesh so that we could live lackadaisical lives of worldly lusts and luxuries. Jesus identified himself with our weaknesses, so that we in the power of the Holy Spirit might identify with His life of discipline and obedience.

"The discipline of training 10,000 hours enables some of us mortals to run 100 meters in 10 seconds. Years of memorization and study of German may free us to speak Deutsch with the best. Hours watching game films can free a defensive back to play with utter abandon.

"But when it comes to spiritual matters, we hesitate. *Discipline* sounds so much like legalism. But such thinking is mistaken. Legalism is self-centered, but discipline is God-centered. The legalistic heart says, "I will do this thing to gain merit with God." The disciplined heart says, "I will do this thing because I love God and want to please him." Paul knew this difference well, and he never gave an inch to legalists, even while challenging Christians to "train yourself to be godly.""

(R.Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: 1&2 Timothy and Titus*; [Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000] p.108).

## **QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Jesus identified himself with our weaknesses, so that we in the power of the Holy Spirit might identify with His life of discipline and obedience. What areas of discipline or obedience would you like to grow in? Pray about it.*

*What is a Spirit-filled life?*

*How do you know when you are being tempted?*

*Where did Jesus get His knowledge of the Scriptures?*

*Where did Jesus quote from in answering the temptations of the devil?*

*What are your spiritual goals for your children? What are you doing now to reach these goals? What should you be doing?*

*Why didn't Jesus turn the stones into bread?*

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Prepared by Pastor Aaron Goerner (12/7/2003). See Dt.33:8-10; Ezra 7:10; Malachi 2:7; Acts 17:11; Col.1:28,29; 1 Tim.4:12-16.  
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