

“Passing Life’s Temptation Tests”

Based on Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) February 5, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Matthew 4:1-4

1 Then (Immediately after his baptism) Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

† **Satan is saying that since you are the Son of God, use that privilege for your own self-interests.**

† **What is wrong with this is that it is not God’s will for Jesus but Satan’s will.**

† **Notice that when I have temptations, even little ones, I focus not on others but myself.**

Matthew 4:5-7

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

† **Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12.**

† **Satan knows scripture better than anyone and will take it out of context to get his way.**

† **Faith is not pushing God to get my will, it is following God’s will.**

Matthew 4:8-10

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

† **I cannot defeat evil by compromising with evil.**

† **In each response from Jesus, he mentions “God.”**

† **I can only defeat evil with God’s help.**

† **Being tempted is not a sin.**

† **I sin when I give in to the temptation and disobey God.**

† **Ways to turn to God for strength:**

- * **A short prayer.**
- * **Contact a Christian friend or my pastor.**
- * **Get my Bible and read it (in context).**

† **When temptations come, and they will, focus on who it is really helping.**

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† What “small” temptations have I given in to?

† Who did the temptation benefit?

† What temptation am I dealing with?

What is Satan’s will in this temptation?

What is God’s will in this temptation?

What is my will in this temptation?

† What is one way I can move from being self-centered to God-centered in dealing with my temptations?