

The Gospel of Matthew

"The Testing of the Son of God"
(Part Two)
Matthew 4:1-11

Testing of Jesus (pt 1)

Jesus, Our Savior

- As our representative, Jesus triumphs over Satan and trusts His Father's word
- The wilderness testing was the necessary training course for Jesus en route to the cross

Testing of Jesus (pt 2)

Jesus, Our Example

- He was "tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15)
- Jesus endured testing and temptation with resources open to each of his followers
- He left an example for us "to follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2:21)

Testing of Jesus (pt 2)

Jesus, Our Example

- *Relationship between "testing" and "tempting"*
 - In periods of testing, Satan will seize upon the opportunity to entice you away from God
 - Even Satan's temptations become a means of God's testing

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

A. God's Testing

#1: In His love, God intentionally brings testing for our good

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

A. God's Testing

#2: God's usual means of testing is in the form of deprivation, suffering and trials (*"wilderness"*)

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

A. God's Testing

#3: God's aim in our testing is for us to know that we do not live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds out of His mouth

Testing of Jesus

Reality of Satan

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

"Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood..." (Eph. 6:11-12)

"...in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes." (2 Cor. 2:11)

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

B. Satan's Tempting (his "schemes")

#1: he casts suspicion on God's goodness in an attempt to entice us not to trust God

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

B. Satan's Tempting (his "schemes")

#2: he presents our present happiness and comfort as God's chief end for us

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

B. Satan's Tempting (his "schemes")

#3: he deceitfully uses the Scriptures to make disobedience appear biblical

Testing of Jesus

Jesus, Our Example

B. Satan's Tempting (his "schemes")

#4: he paints sin as the path to freedom and fulfillment while hiding its consequences
("he presents the bait and hides the hook")
– T. Brooks

Testing of Jesus

The means to obedience...

➤ *The Word of God*

- God's word is appointed for our strengthening and endurance in the midst of trial (Rom. 15:4)
- God's word is the sword of the Spirit by which we fight against Satan's schemes (Eph. 6:17)