



Single Minded Obedience

Study Scripture: Matthew 4: 1 - 11

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 6 and 8

Lesson 6 February 1, 2020

Key Verse

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 4:10

INTRODUCTION

One of the most critical temptations that we all face is an attack on who we are. Some people will attack us and say we are not the kind of woman or man that has any worth. Some will attack a man and say he's not much of a man. Others will attack a child and say that they are not important because they are a child.

People are attacked for many reasons and the most dangerous kinds of attacks are those that challenge our identity. If any person allows someone to challenge their very identity successfully, that would be the ultimate disaster for a person's existence. That is why slavery of other people, oppression and other disastrous' offensive forms of human activity are so iniquitous and should always be rejected.

In our Lesson we will see Jesus facing a most dangerous kind of temptation where His person as the Son of God and therefore His identity and His calling are challenged in the most powerful way possible.

We will see how the wily and completely evil Satan challenged Jesus' identity as the Son of God and tried to tempt Him down a different path than that laid out for Him as the Servant of Jehovah.

Satan will do the same with us. He has been watching you and he knows you better than you know yourself. So just as he tempted Jesus he will tempt you. He will use the same method.

We should look at Jesus and how He behaved very carefully. Jesus resisted this tremendous temptation and as a result, we are saved. So when Jesus chose to live in obedience, in God's way, as the son of God, the plan of redemption was successfully completed. Similarly we will succeed in our mission in life if we are obedient.

Scriptures tell us that believers in Jesus Christ are sons and daughters of God. Believers are in the family of God. Just as Jesus the beloved Son of God was obedient and totally focused on doing the will

of the Father we have to do the same as Jesus did. That is who we are and that is what we always should be and do.

There are three primary categories in which the temptation of Jesus recorded in our Study Scripture falls. In each of these categories there is tremendously important application for the people of Israel and also for us today. One writer reminds us:

“1. Jesus’ testing recalls that of Israel in the wilderness; whatever God commanded Israel his child in the wilderness, much more he would require of his Sons the Messiah.

2. Jesus provides a model for tested believers.

3. The narrative affirms a correct understanding of Jesus’ Messiahship as against contemporary political or militaristic interpretations.....

Matthew emphasizes that Jesus, unlike Israel, passed his test in the wilderness. Matthew makes this biblical background clear even in simple ways like saying the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness (as in Exodus 13: 18, 21; 15: 13, 22; Deuteronomy 8:2).

We should also note that Jesus quotes three texts from Deuteronomy, all of them commandments that Israel failed to obey but that Jesus is determined to obey”.

We should always bear in mind that there is a biblical principle that the people that God called must be tested. Matthew reminds us of this for he tells us that the purpose of the Spirit’s leading the Son of God into the wilderness was that He might be tested. In biblical history Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Job were all similarly tested and so we know that Jesus had to be tested before He began His public ministry.

Therefore when God calls you and empowers you and enables you to something important for Him expect to be tested. The more serious or important the task you are called to do, the more you can expect to be tested in line with the seriousness of your call. So if you think you are called to some great ministry, and we must remind you that all ministries are really great, expect to be tested in a way commensurate or in line with what you are called to do. But before you get frightened let us quote from this writer about this matter:

“The devil may not show up in person or test you on the same supernatural level that he tested Jesus, but your hardships may seem unbearable apart from the grace of God. Nevertheless, testing is for our good: when biblical heroes had matured through the time of testing, they knew the depth of God's grace that had sustained them.

The truly triumphant boast not in their success in the test but in God's empowerment, without which they could not have overcome. Jesus went into this testing only after the Father had empowered him in the Spirit (3:16).

We therefore remind ourselves that at Jesus’ baptism the Father had said, ***“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.***

Since you are in the family of God because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ you are also God’s beloved son and daughter and you should show the same simple minded obedience that Jesus your champion and vicarious advocate who gave up His own power to accomplish His mission to save us from our sins showed. T

This simple minded obedience must also be showed in your life.

Evidences of Jesus as Messiah

Christians are going to be tested and therefore Jesus our forerunner has gone before us and showed us how to overcome. Look again therefore at Matthew 6:13 and 26:41 which reminds us of this temptation that we will always face. Remember that those passages come with a warning.

Jesus knew that the way of redemption was not easy and He knew that He had to achieve the goal, the service that God required of Him in the right way. Remember therefore that God has a right way for us to do things and a wrong way that we should avoid. Jesus had to show that He trusted His Father completely, and was obedient to His Father's instructions. It is written:

The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

This was the position of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah. The prophet spoke and predicted what He would be like, His personality and His commitment to His Father's words and Jesus fulfilled all that was spoken of Him.

Note also the encouragement of the prophet Isaiah to all of us, after he spoke of Messiah's nature and determination. We are called on to do likewise.

"Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God."

One writer comments on our text as follows:

"Matthew 4:1-11 should be considered in light of who Jesus is, what He is called to do, and how he fulfills His call. The passage, in other words, is about Jesus. Matthew invites us to contemplate Jesus.

Certainly, there is application for us in this passage regarding how to resist temptation. Jesus is our example (Philippians 2:5).

But how many of us have used the accounts of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness as a formula for resisting temptation and given in nevertheless time after time?

The passage is not a formula for resisting temptation; it is an invitation to consider Jesus, who resisted temptation for us and went on to win our redemption.

And if we see that, and if we see Him and appreciate and adore and worship Him because of what He went through for us, we'll be the kind of people who resist temptation not because we can follow a formula but because we love Jesus."

WHAT GOD SAYS HE WANTS FROM HIS PEOPLE AND HOW JESUS DEMONSTRATES THIS

In this section of the Book of Deuteronomy the people of Israel were again told in detail the stipulations of the covenant with their Lord who demanded their absolute allegiance and obedience. The primary requirement for showing loyalty to their Lord was explained so that the new generation about to enter Canaan would realize their responsibility to hear, learn, keep, and do the Ten Commandments, commandments which formed the essence of the Covenant.

The social and religious stipulations connected with the Covenant had to be observed for the Lord had made the Covenant with their fathers and had promised an inheritance for those who had faith and obedience. Israel had to fear the Lord and thus hold Him in godly reverence. He alone was Yahweh the self-existent God, the one and only eternal, uncreated God.

We are accordingly given a model of a godly family structure for this redeemed community. This nation of about two million people told Moses after he had emphasized the critical importance of the Ten Commandments that they had a heart to walk in obedience to the word of God. They knew that the words of God mean the difference between life and death.

The exhortation of Moses in chapter 5:32-33 should be noted carefully:

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn to the right hand or to the left.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess”.

Anyone who professes to be of God would show this by their loyalty to and obedience to the ways that God had commanded.

Note therefore the character of the Covenant. You must now consider whether or not you are a covenant relationship with God. If you do certain things will apply to you.

Verses 4-5 had shown its mediatorial character prefiguring the New Covenant. Scripture tells us that Moses the mediator of the Old Covenant (the people needed a mediator between a holy God and themselves lest they die) looked forward to Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant.

We now have to look at this Mediator to assure ourselves that He was perfectly obedient to the commands of Yahweh. Only then can we be sure that the promised Mediator is the right Mediator to stand in our place and bear the punishment for our iniquities.

The importance of the Commandments, Statutes, and the Judgments or Ordinances are emphasized for they are to guide the way as Israel and ourselves are to live. Note that there are duties to God written on the first stone tablet and this is called the “Shema”.

Hopefully, we will see from our Study Scripture that there is a real enemy who would like to deny us ever receiving the blessings promised by God. The real enemy is Satan. Israel might have thought that their enemy was Rome, and we might think that those who oppress us as we live our lives are the real enemy. But if Israel believed that and if we mistakenly focus and do not believe that Satan is our real enemy we are in for a shock.

THE TEXT

This enemy was revealed in the Matthew Text we shall now examine. He faced the Mediator, the Saviour who came to redeem man. This man who was a leader like Moses stood between man and God and was fully capable to save. Satan was a wily adversary but he was no match for the Servant of Jehovah. We will see this as we look at the several tests that the Servant of Jehovah faced.

But note that we are looking at two beings struggling in the desert for a huge stake. The real reason for the struggle is for the future of the Earth, and for man, you and I.

Evidences of Jesus as Messiah

The important figure for us in the struggle which maybe took only an hour is God's Son and angels came to minister unto Him in acknowledgment of the fact that He had overcome.

But note carefully that unlike modern victors in a battle who would be crowned and who would hold their head high and be highly regarded with their victory Jesus left the battlefield to set out on His sad way for a very difficult and painful path toward the Cross. This was not a path of glory and worldly triumph but it was the way of God, the way of simpleminded obedience, doing things in God's way for that is the only way to please God.

Some in the world who look at the massive problems, pain and suffering in the world might think that it was Satan who won the victory and regained his power and control over the world. But the coming of the angels to minister to Jesus shows us otherwise. Satan and his demonic associates know that their days are numbered.

It is interesting to note the contrast that as one scholar puts it:

“The entire spiritual and moral history of the human race revolves around two people. The circumstances of the temptation in the Garden of Eden and the temptation in the wilderness are in sharp contrast.

Adam was tempted in a garden. The Lord Jesus was tempted in a wilderness.

Adam was tempted when he was well-fed. Jesus Christ was tempted after he had fasted for 40 days and was hungry.

Adam was the first attempt of Satan's in the temptation of men, but he comes to Jesus Christ after at least 4,000 years of practice”.

As we go into this Study Scripture one important question which is important to ask and which has engendered a great deal of disagreement and controversy is the question. Could the Lord Jesus have sinned?

Even orthodox believers have differed over this question, and some have said that the Lord Jesus was able to have sinned, but he did not sin, while others have said no, He was not able to sin. This is the issue that theologians described as the issue of impeccability. If Jesus was not able to sin, then He would be an impeccable person. One writer believes that and he supports his position as follows:

“Well the Scriptures, I think, make it fairly plain that Jesus is an impeccable person. After all, there is something higher than just choosing good. There is the happy necessity of good. And the impeccability, the inability of the Lord Jesus to sin is guaranteed by the union of the divine and human natures in one, divine person. If we remember, the Lord Jesus was a divine person. He existed as the pre-existent and eternal Son before he took a human nature. It would help us in understanding the way in which our Lord Jesus approached the temptation through Satan. So, his impeccability is guaranteed by the fact that he is a divine person who has taken on himself and additional nature. He is not a human person who has been raised to the power of deity, but a divine person who has taken an addition nature to himself. And consequently, he is as mighty to overcome sin as his mightiest nature. The mightiest nature is his divine nature, and because he has a divine nature, he is impeccable.

One of the most famous illustrations of this is the illustration that Professor Shedd has used. He has imagined a steel beam and a piece of iron wire-- let's just imagine that we have it here by the side of the pulpit..... I call out in the audience with my steel beam by the side of the pulpit, “Would any of you young men who think that you are strong like to come up and try to break this steel beam?”. And suppose we have a few foolish volunteers, and they come up, and attempt

to bend the steel beam but are unable to do so, and shamefacedly retreat to their seats in the audience.

And then I have on the other side a little, small piece of iron wire. And I issue an invitation again and I say, “Would anyone like to come up and break the iron wire?” And a number of hands go up and successfully come forward and break the iron wire. And then I ask them, “Now, you’re sure that you can break the iron wire?” And you say, yes, I’m sure. Then I take the iron wire and I wrap it around the steel beam and I invite you to come up again and break the iron wire, what you are unable to break the iron wire because now the iron wire has the strength of the steel beam.

Now in the person of our Lord Jesus, a divine person who to himself a human nature, we have a divine person, and because his mightiest nature is his divine nature, while he is tempted and peccable in his human nature, since he is a divine person who possesses a divine nature as well as a human nature, he is temptable by virtue of his human nature, but impeccable by virtue of the divine and human in the divine person.

Now I hope we understood, then when we speak of the impeccability of the Lord Jesus, we are not saying that he is sinless. We are seeing more. We are saying that he could not have sinned”.

And the writer continues:

“Now I think that that raises, immediately, the next question, which I’ve already referred to: “Well, if the Lord Jesus could not have sinned, could he be tempted?” Well yes, he could be tempted, because temptability depends upon the constitutional susceptibility of the human nature, and the Lord Jesus possessed a human nature. And so he could be tested, but he could not sin.

Now it's evident that this temptation is in the realm of the human nature, for we read, after it is over, that angels came to him and ministered to him. Angels do not minister to deity in the sense of strengthening deity, and that of course is the force of that text. So we have then an evidence that the Lord Jesus is impeccable.

THE TEXT

Note that when Satan tries to turn Jesus out of His way, he shifts his strategy when he fails. He will do the same thing with you.

Verse 1. Jesus was baptised and declared to be the Son of God in whom God was well pleased. The Spirit descended on Him. After the witness by God the Father, God the Spirit and the testimony of John the Baptist, and Jesus Christ Himself, Jesus is tempted by the Devil.

Note several important things:

1. Great privileges and special tokens of divine favour will not secure us from being tempted.
2. After great honour is put upon us, we must expect a humbling event to occur in our lives, most notably along the lines of temptation.
3. God always prepares His people for testing before He calls them to it, giving strength and comfort for the trial ahead.
4. The assurance of our ‘sonship’ is the best preparation for temptation . Just as the Spirit was witness to Jesus' baptism so too the Spirit has given evidence of our adoption into the family of God, supplying us with an answer to all of the suggestions of the evil spirit that are intended to debauch or disquiet us.

Evidences of Jesus as Messiah

Jesus therefore was to be tested to confirm who He was and the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. It was the desire of Jesus to be always led by the Spirit and God the Father and so He knew and approved of the fact that He would undergo this ordeal.

Believers must therefore be always sober and vigilant for the devil has particular spite for useful persons, especially those given to do good. So do not presume on your own strength. Do not do things to tempt the devil to tempt us. Be always led by the Spirit.

Note that there were really only three classes of temptations that Jesus encountered, each one with a different emphasis.

Verse 2. Jesus was hungry after fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. Fasting is an important discipline for it helps focus one's mind. It is however not advisable to fast for this long period of time.

Note that Jesus was in the barren desert with nothing much around Him to sustain human life. Jesus was therefore in a state of extreme hunger. He was human and so He acutely felt the need for food. This parallels the experience of Israel who was baptized in the Red Sea and was then tempted in the wilderness. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Israel's first temptation had to do with hunger for they complained bitterly about their need for food and God provided and met their need by providing manna. Exodus 16.

Jesus was well able personally to provide to meet His needs but He lived under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and was not going to act independently of His Father. He will not be overly anxious about His physical needs, despair of His Father's goodness, repeat the apostasy of Adam and Eve in Genesis or Israel in Exodus 16 over food. Jesus would trust perfectly in His Father's care.

Verses 3-4. In the first temptation, reminiscent of what is spoken of in Psalm 23, the devil came to entice Jesus to do what was wrong hoping that there would be a personal failure. This was an open and frontal attack. He knew that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God. This was different from his normal, underhanded, secret and sneaky attack on the people of God. This was the devil tempting Jesus to use His own power to show He was the Messiah by providing a kingdom of bread or the promised messianic banquet. By showing His power to provide bread for the hungry Jesus would confirm that He was Messiah and be able to meet the needs of the people and would now show He could improve the lives of people and compel their allegiance. Since the Father had said that Jesus was His Son He would have expected Jesus to provide bread for Himself from these stones and in so doing show His miraculous ability. Jesus could not have come to save the world and not show that He had His own power and would have to depend on somebody else, Satan was really saying.

When Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 8:2-3 which addressed Israel's complaint about God's negligence, He was really saying that though we need bread we do not live by bread alone and our deeper need can only be satisfied by the word of God. He could provide bread but not by turning His back on God, and He certainly would not begin His ministry by following any lead of the devil. His entire aim in life would be direct to people to the word of God and motivate, feed, and strengthen people by the word of God.

"It is written" would remind Satan that He Jesus is the Eternal Word. As the Word of God He would be totally obedient to every word that came out of the mouth of God. That word of God and the power of God the Father with sustain Him.

Verses 5-7. Jesus' reply from Scripture did not satisfy Satan and so he moved on to a second temptation which stressed the Davidic sonship and the promises about Jerusalem and the promises to the nation.

Jesus is now taken out of the wilderness and into the heart of the Promised Land Jesus was taken to the pinnacle of the Temple so that whatever He did would show the world who He was.

Note that Satan had learned something from the first testing for now he said to Jesus that "if" He was the Son of God He should throw Himself down from the pinnacle, for "it is written..."

So Satan learned from his first meeting that the word of God was extremely important in the thinking of the Son of God so he now quotes from Scripture in Psalm 91

"It is written, He shall give His angels charge over you

In their hands they shall bear you up

Lest you dash your foot against a stone".

So he called on Jesus to perform a sensational sign since the Scriptures had said Messiah would perform mighty miracles and then the angels would come and perform sensational, convincing miracles before everybody and this would transform the unbelief of the people to which He would preach.

But note carefully that Satan is making the mistake of tempting the Lord Jesus to commit presumption, that is, forcing God in a person's time on doing what the word of God says, calling on the promises of God to be done now, without waiting for God to do what He wished in His time. Trying to force God's Hand to perform all of His promises He has made to us, even if the Scripture says that He would fulfill His promises is presumption. Christians do that all the while. But Jesus would never do that.

But note also that Satan made another common error by omitting part of the text that he cites for the part of the text that he leaves out is omitted because he does not want to put in there. The text in the Old Testament said,

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in thy hands lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

A close examination of the Psalms 91 verses 11 and 12 show that the devil omitted the second clause of verse 11. He does this deliberately. But Scriptures are really telling was that the promises of God are so made that they are our support and bulwark when we are in the will of God and then also when action is in that part of His plan. One writer therefore reminds us:

"The promises of God are not applicable at our direction. The sovereignty over the determination of the application of the promises of God remains with God. That is why often the saints pray, and God does not answer their prayers. It's not their time to receive the answer. Always when we pray, we should remember the prayers of our Lord Jesus, "O my Father, if it be possible let the cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine Be done. I want to be kept in all my Ways, the ways that you have determined for me. And if the answer that you desire for me, and which is in your will for me is a "no", give me the grace to accept that answer".

It is therefore clear that Satan is not honest and probably does not care to understand Scripture in its fullness. He is prepared to misinterpret Scripture or to interpret it in his own way, changing up statements of Scripture and omitting things in Scripture to achieve his own purpose.

Evidences of Jesus as Messiah

The false teachers and those in the cults of course do exactly the same thing. They might not say that they disbelieve the Scriptures but they confine themselves to cite only certain texts in Scriptures that they manipulate and change around to try to prove their point and mesmerized many simpleminded Christians who often have not studied the word of God for the many years they are in church. They therefore do not really understand the words, *It is written*.

Jesus however simply tells Satan this time that it is written that it is forbidden to tempt the Lord your God. This comes from Deuteronomy 6:16.

Jesus rejects the Satanic notion that if you want to rally people around you the way to do it is to put together spectacular demonstration of power. Remember therefore that the devil, the cults, and the false teachers we often quote Scripture for evil purposes. In every case they will appeal to your lower nature, the drives of the flesh, trying to persuade you to do what you know is wrong, but calling it right.

What you have to do is look at these people and see whether they show in their life the fruit of the Spirit, namely, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Do they live lives of luxury and show a little self-control over their flesh? Do they live a life of luxury and excess, set up one standard of behaviour for themselves and another standard for others, and make others think that they are somehow less than they are? Are they quoting all the verses that speak to a particular subject and then put the verses in their proper context?

Verses 8-10. Satan knew that Jesus came to exercise messianic authority over the entire earth but here Satan proposed a shortcut so that He would avoid the suffering of death on the Cross. So in this third temptation Satan takes Jesus on an exceedingly high mountain showing Him the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Satan knew that this would be an attractive proposition for Israel was under tremendous pressure under the Roman domination, and his offer of dominion over the whole world was a powerful enticement for Jesus to avoid the misery of the cross. Jewish greatness was a distant memory and so the Devil was claiming that if Jesus wanted so draw people to Him quickly all He had to do was to promise the nation political and military power. But Jesus knew that the devil's proposal would require a pact with the devil.

The devil plainly stated that Jesus should worship him and Jesus would get what the nation wanted. That was the pact.

But Jesus knew that the seed of Abraham must die. Jesus knew that the end does not justify the means. He would not therefore use the methods of the world even if it offered a way to achieve a legitimate divine goal. One writer tells us that there is even more to it than that. He states:

“There is another great principle. From the holy Scripture we are taught as plain as we possibly can be taught, that the things that God desires, the things that he plans, the things that he accomplishes are to be accomplished by spiritual methods, by His methods, rather than by the methods of men or Satan. In other words, the methods by which God accomplishes his tasks are as significant as the accomplishment of the tasks themselves”.

Jesus therefore cited from Scripture and dismissed the claim of the devil to be able to deliver the kingdoms of the world on demand. Many would serve the devil willingly but he could certainly not deliver everything he claimed. This was really a steel trap for Jesus and the bait was really not that

great as it might have appeared. So Jesus dismissed the devil without any hesitation or batting an eyelid saying:

Get thee behind me Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only'.

Remember that you have been called to worship the Lord. Anything else is idolatry. That is ultimate failure. Satan is behind all the false gods and they will never be able to really help you.

Beware of the devil's promises. Remember that there is nothing there. The only thing he will give you is the Lake of Fire. There is no real profit if a man or woman gains the whole world and loses their soul. The promises of sexual pleasure, power, the high that drugs and alcohol will give you have no substance. It is all an illusion. So do not fall for it. What you get from doing what God says you should not do is of no value and any pleasure will be temporary and will not last. After that short-lived pleasure there will be tremendous pain.

Verse 11. With that dismissal, the devil left. The angels came and ministered to Jesus. That is their role in heaven. They now performed this task on earth. Jesus had passed the test and God blessed Him.

Remember that therefore when you're tested you can pass the test. There is hope for you. The Holy Spirit is there to help you and ensure that you pass the test no matter how difficult it is. The power to pass the test comes from God. The power does not come from the tempter. So do not need before the devil. That is not the route to the immeasurable blessings that God has reserved for you.

But remember that Satan did not leave Jesus alone all the time. He tried. He even placed someone to sabotage the work of Jesus in the midst of the disciples. He attempted to get Peter to deny that Jesus had to go to the cross. Jesus had to chase him away and call him Satan, for clearly Satan was still attempting to get Jesus to avoid the Cross.

The temptations were attempts to bring about redemption without the cross.

CONCLUSION

Can you now see the parallels in your life? Can you see how Satan approaches you and tempts you, as he looks at your deepest desires, your long-held dreams, what you really want from life, what you want to be, and who you want people to think you are?

He knows us very well. He and his cronies always watch us very carefully, even when we are sleeping. He can anticipate what we are going to do by our body language, our facial expressions, our past approaches to problems in life, and of course our constant neglect to strenuously follow the commands of God. He will even put ideas into our head. He crafts his temptations to make us fall quickly and to keep us down once we have fallen.

We should be mindful that Jesus is the "Son of God", and we are also amazingly called "sons of God" (Galatians 3:26).

So as we hear the hiss of the serpent in our heart, and hear how he accuses us, calling us idiots, worthless and unlovable people, not good enough, incompetent, silly, just remember that we must keep on trusting in God for one day Satan will be silenced.

Evidences of Jesus as Messiah

We are to trust in God, listen to all His commandments, follow His words, depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to do His will. We certainly cannot do it in our own strength.

We need simple minded obedience. One writer notes:

If Jesus had given into this temptation and assumed sovereignty on the devil's terms, what kind of world would he be leading? What kind of world would we be living in now? What would be the prospects for eternity?

One thing's for sure: It would be an unredeemed world. It might be something along the lines of hell: no righteousness, no peace, no joy – no God. Because Jesus resisted the devil, creation is redeemed, including all those in the kingdoms of the world who want for redemption.”

In facing temptation, we can see that Jesus' reactions are those of one who always attends to the word of God before acting. We can see that God sustained Him through the forty days and forty nights of fasting by supernatural means. Jesus was tempted by the devil time and time again, yet never yielding. The Bible indicates that the devil is not done with us, he will always escalate until he is defeated or we give in.

In the first two of the temptations in Matthew 4, we see that Jesus used the Scripture in order to reject the offers from Satan. We also see that Jesus would not tempt, or disbelieve the promises of God and His care for Him. The last temptation was dealt with by an outright and immediate rejection of Satan and all he stood for, without any contemplation of any idea to what he offered.

Again, in this situation, Jesus went to the word of God, so that we all understood that God only is to be worshipped. The temptations of Christ, is there to show us that Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures solidifying the fact that He is the Son of God, both in the minds of believers and the devils. He proved the love of the Father for Him, and that their relationship is derived from the Son trusting in the Father.

Make sure therefore that you study the word of God and know it. When you use the word of God and resist Satan he will flee away from you. But under no circumstances should you go into his territory and open yourself up deliberately to him tempting you.

As Christians, we can see from this that the Devil is a defeated foe and the Captain of our salvation is a leader who knows our infirmities because He too has suffered temptation, but has conquered it in the name of His Father.

We too must look to the example of Jesus to help us through temptation. But we must also realize that we cannot fend off temptation without the strength of our Father, just as Jesus looked towards the Father. If we keep this idea in mind, we will be able to fulfill the tasks that our Father in heaven has for us.