



## With Us in the Desert

*By Taylor Braswell on November 29, 2021*

**READING:** Matthew 4

Although Jesus was led by the Spirit, it is important to remember that He was tempted by the devil, not God. James 1:13 reminds us that God cannot be tempted with evil, and that God tempts no one. We must remember that Jesus is fully man, Jesus is fully God, and Jesus was fully tempted (Hebrews 4:15). I once heard it said that the devil is free in the sense that he can do some things, but there is a collar around his neck and God is holding the leash.

In verse 3, Jesus is tempted to fulfill His desires apart from God. When we give in to self-gratification, we are attempting to satisfy our desires now because we do not believe God will provide for us. Just like in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve did what they thought was best, not what God wanted. The Israelites wandered for 40 years and kept forgetting that God would provide for them. When Jesus was hungry after 40 days in the desert, he trusted in the Father!

In verse 6, Satan tries to tempt Jesus into not trusting that the Father would protect him. In verse 7, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 which points us back to Exodus 17. The Israelites demanded that God provide them with water and even questioned if the Lord was with them. Satan tries to persuade Jesus to manipulate Scripture and question God's presence. We are often tempted to make God's promises apply to whatever we currently want. Even in the desert when He was hungry, Jesus trusted that the Father was with Him.

In verse 8, Satan tries to get Jesus to abandon what the Father had called Him to do by tempting Him with what the world had to offer. Jesus knows everything is His, but He also knows He must endure the cross and the wrath of the Father in order to accomplish salvation. If we are not careful, we can lose focus of eternity by living for what we can gain in this short life now. Jesus chose to submit to the Father!

**PRAYER:** God, remind me each day through Your Word that You will provide for me and that in You and You alone I will find satisfaction. Help me to live for eternity.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 5

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