



## Three Tough Tests

By Shannon Ford on April 18, 2024

**TODAY'S READING:** Matthew 4

In Matthew 3, we see Jesus' baptism and the start of His public ministry. In Matthew 4:1, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. After 40 days of fasting, Satan begins his attack on Jesus. When a person surrenders their life to Christ, they also start their public ministry as a Christian. Just as Satan tested and tempted Jesus, we can expect the same. Satan will more than likely test and tempt us to see if he can eliminate God's plan for our lives by damaging or destroying our testimony. In the temptations of Jesus, we see Satan's strategy for testing us.

Jesus is alone in the wilderness, and Satan is waiting for Him. After Jesus had fasted for 40 days and nights, Satan launched three attacks (temptations) to test Jesus. These tests are applicable to us today. These tests are,

1. The Survival Test (vv. 1-4) – If the enemy can get you to spend all your energy and time providing for yourself, he knows you will be distracted from God's purpose for your life.
2. The Security Test (vv. 5-7) – The enemy wants you to doubt that God can really take care of you. You must take matters into your own hands.
3. The Success Test (vv. 8-10) – The enemy wants you to pursue the paths that promote you instead of trusting God to provide for you.

In all three temptations, Satan took scripture out of context to tempt Jesus. Each time Jesus responded with the correct scripture. This ought to say something to us about our desire to know and understand the Word of God. Jesus was capable of defeating Satan's temptations because of God's Word. It is easy for us to read this and think, "Yeah, but He is God." There is no mention here of any divine characteristic or power being used. He knew the Bible and He stood on it.

Do you want to be able to stand against Satan when he attacks? Do you want to make sure you are doing what God wants? Get into the Bible. Read it. Memorize it. Study it. And most of all, live it! If you want help in discovering how to study the Bible and get out of it all God has for you, I highly suggest you get, *Living by the Book*, by Howard Hendricks. It will teach you to study God's Word on your own.

**PRAYER:** Lord, we pray for Your enabling grace to say no to temptation. Help us recognize temptation for what it is and reject it. Help us take the practical steps needed to avoid known areas of temptation and flee. Give us a hunger to know and understand Your Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** John 16

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