

“One Little Word”
Matthew 4:1-11

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Matthew 4 - Where We Find The Familiar Account:
 - Of The Temptation Of Christ:
 - By The Devil!
 - Because - As We Have Been:
 - Looking More Closely At:
 - Our Ancient Foe - The Devil:
 - We Will See Here:
 - His Greatest Delusion Yet!
2. Because - While Showing Himself:
 - To Jesus - In The Same Ways:
 - We Have Been Seeing Him:
 - So Far In Our Series:
 - In Trying To Deceive Jesus:
 - The Devil Actually Deceives Himself!
 - The Devil Was Deluded To Think:
 - That The Same *Devices* He Used:
 - To Get Eve To Question God:
 - Would Tempt Jesus:
 - To Question god!
 - The Devil Was Deluded To Think:
 - That The Same *Design* He Used:
 - To Tempt Eve - As A Subtle Serpent:
 - Would Work On Jesus:
 - To Get Him To Sin!
 - The Devil Was Deluded To Think:
 - That The Same *Dominion* He Has:
 - Over This Fallen World:
 - Would Have Any Sway Over:
 - The Son Of God!
 - And - The Devil Was Deluded To Think:
 - That Jesus Would Fall Into The Trap:
 - Of Pride - Which Was:
 - The Devil's Own *Downfall!*
3. But - As Deluded As The Devil Was:
 - He Still Tried! He Still Made:
 - The Attempt - To Tempt:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And So - We Read Of This Attempt:
 - In Matthew 4:1-11!
 - Let's Read These Verses Together!
4. Now - We Have Been Using:
 - Martin Luther's Hymn:
 - "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!"
 - As A Loose Outline:
 - For Some Of The Messages:
 - About Our Greatest Enemy!
 - As Luther Described The Devil:
 - We Have Seen Him As:
 - Our Ancient Foe!
 - That Seeks To Work Us Woe!
 - And - His Craft & Power Are Great!
 - But - As The Hymn Continues:
 - He's Armed With Cruel Hate!

- And - On Earth Is Not His Equal!
- 5. So - How Can We Experience:
 - Victory Over Such:
 - An Ancient & Formidable Foe?
 - Of Course:
 - The First & Foremost Answer Is:
 - Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Which Is What Luther Reminds Us Of:
 - In His Second Stanza:
 - Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
 - Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
 - Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
 - Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
 - And He must win the battle!
 - The Victory Of Jesus:
 - Is What We Must Believe In & Trust In:
 - In Order To Experience Victory:
 - In Our Lives!
- 6. Which Is Why Luther Then Adds:
 - In His Third Verse:
 - And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
 - We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
 - The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
 - His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
 - One little word shall fell him!
 - Now - I Don't Know About You:
 - But - I've Sung This Song For Years:
 - And Have Always Wondered What:
 - That "One Little Word" Is:
 - That Can & Will "Fell" The Devil! And - Topple Him Over:
 - Like A Dead & Rotten Tree!
- 7. Could That "One Little Word" Be:
 - The Words Of Scripture?
 - No Doubt - As We Will See From Matthew 4:
 - The Devil Is Powerless:
 - When We Fight Against Him With:
 - The Powerful "Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is The Word Of God!"
 - But - Can The Bible Be Considered:
 - A "Little Word?"
 - Or - Could That "One Little Word" Be:
 - The Words Of Jesus Himself?
 - Or - Even Jesus Himself - Since He Is:
 - The Living Word - And:
 - The Word Of God Incarnate?
 - Again - There's No Doubt - As We Will Also See:
 - From Matthew 4 - That:
 - The Devil Is No Match For:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - But Again - Can Jesus Be Considered:
 - Just A "Little Word?"
- 8. Thankfully - Martin Luther:
 - Does Not Leave This Question Unanswered!
 - In One Of His Other Writings:
 - He Actually Identifies The "One Little Word" He Had In Mind:
 - When He Wrote His Hymn!
 - Speaking Of Himself - He Wrote:
 - "Devil, You Lie! This Is What Dr. Luther Sings So Proudly And Boldly In Those Words Of His Hymn - 'One Little Word Shall Fell Him!'"

- So - The "One Little Word" That:
 - Will Always Fell Our Foe Is:
 - The Simple Truth That:
 - Satan Is A Liar!
- And When Confronted With:
 - All The Deceitful Devices That The Devil:
 - Will Use To Tempt Us - That:
 - "One Little Word Shall Fell Him!"
 - If We Just Remember It!
 - The Devil Is A Liar!
 - And You Don't Need To Listen To Or Believe His Lies!

9. And So - As We Go Through:

- The Three Times & Ways That:
 - The Devil Tempted Jesus:
 - Remember - When He Tries To Tempt You:
 - That "He Is A Liar, And The Father Of It!" (John 8:44)

* And So - When We Come To:

1. The First Temptation:

- In 4:3-4 - We Find The Devil Coming To Jesus:
 - With The Subtlety Of The Serpent!
 - Not In An Outright Derogatory Way:
 - But With Deceit & Cunning!
 - 4:3 - "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread!"
 - Of Course - All This Took Place After:
 - Jesus Was In His Weakest Physical Condition:
 - Since We Are Told In 4:2:
 - That Jesus "Fasted Forty Days And Forty Nights" & "He Was Afterward An Hungered!"
 - And - This Is Often When:
 - The Devil Will Seek To Tempt Us As Well!
 - In The Weakest Times:
 - Of Our Lives!
 - As Well As - In The Weakest Points:
 - Of Our Hearts & Character!
 - "Snare Of The Devil!"
 - But - The Greatest Temptation:
 - That The Devil Used:
 - Was Not Just To See If Jesus:
 - Would Follow His Suggestion:
 - To Make Food From The Rocks In The Wilderness!
 - But - Just Like The Devices He Used:
 - Against Eve In The Garden:
 - He Tempted Jesus:
 - To Question The Word & Even The Goodness:
 - Of His Father!
 - Because - When (?) "Was Jesus Led Up Of The Spirit Into The Wilderness To Be Tempted Of The Devil?" (4:1)
 - Not Long After Jesus Began His Public Ministry:
 - By Being Baptized By His Cousin, John:
 - In The Jordan River!
 - And - What Happened At His Baptism?
 - 3:16-17 - "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: / And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"
 - So - Jesus Heard - Perhaps For The First Time:
 - The Audible Voice Of His Father In Heaven:

- Speaking To Him In Terms Of:
 - Love & Pleasure!
- Again - "This Is My Beloved Son, In Whom I Am Well Pleased!"
 - And Then What Happens?
 - 4:1-2 - "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. / And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred!"
 - And - How Does The Devil First Tempt Jesus?
 - 4:3 - "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread!"
- Many Have Noted That This Temptation:
 - Is A Temptation Directed To:
 - "The Lust / Desires / Appetites Of The Flesh" - That We Find In:
 - 1 John 2:16!
 - And - Though True:
 - There Is More To This Temptation:
 - When It Comes To Jesus!
- The Devil Wanted To Get Jesus:
 - To Question The Goodness Of His Father:
 - Toward Him!
 - If Jesus Really Was:
 - His Beloved Son:
 - Would God Have Left Him In The Desert:
 - To Starve?
 - If Jesus Really Was:
 - Pleasing To God:
 - Would He Have Left Him Alone?
 - But - Jesus Knew That "One Little Word Would Fell Him!"
 - Because - Jesus Knew That:
 - The Devil Was Nothing But A Liar & A Deceiver!
 - And - That His Father Was:
 - Perfectly & Infinitely Good:
 - To Him!
 - Psalm 107 - "O Give Thanks Unto The Lord, For He Is Good!"
 - Because - Even Though:
 - He May Have Been Without Food & Likely Even Water - For Those 40 Days & Nights:
 - Like Moses & Elijah Before Him!
 - He Was Sustained By His Father With Food The Devil Knew Nothing About!
 - Which Is Why - Jesus Pulls Out:
 - The "Sword Of The Spirit" From The Sheath Of His Heart:
 - And Tells The Devil - From Deuteronomy 8:3 - "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God!" (4:4)
 - When The Devil Attempts To Tempt You:
 - In The Ways He Tempted Christ:
 - Remember That "One Little Word!"
 - The Devil Is A Liar!
 - And - If He Tries To Get You:
 - To Question God's Goodness:
 - Or Even - To Question His Word!
 - Remember That God Has:
 - Provided For You & Sustained You:
 - With Food That Even The Devil & This World Knows Nothing About!
 - And - Replace The Devil's Lies:
 - With God's Truth:
 - As Found In His Word!

* When We Come To:

2. ***The Second Temptation:***

- In 4:5-6 - The Devil Takes His Temptations:

- To The Next Level - By Trying To Use:
 - God's Own Words Against Jesus!
- 4:5-6 - "Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, / And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone!"
 - In This Temptation:
- The Space Is Significant!
 - Jesus Permits The Devil To Take Him:
 - To Jerusalem & Even To The Temple Itself:
 - Which Was The Special Place Of God's Presence In This World:
 - At That Time!
 - But - Since His Father:
 - Wouldn't Help Jesus In The Wilderness:
 - Perhaps He Would Help Him:
 - At His Own House - *If*:
 - Jesus Really Was God's Son!
 - But - Not Only Was:
 - The Space & Place Of The Temptation Significant:
 - Also:
- The Suggestion Is Significant!
 - Because - When The Devil Suggested To Jesus:
 - That He Could Just - "Cast Thyself Down!"
 - He Was Telling Jesus:
 - Either Way - There Was A Way Out Of All His Hunger & Suffering! Just End Your Life!
 - If You Jump - And God Helps You:
 - You Will Be The Better For It!
 - But - If You Jump - And God Does Not Help You:
 - You're Suffering Is Still Over!
 - But - This Time - The Devil Even:
 - Quotes From The Bible - From Psalm 91:11-12!
 - And Though - He Quotes These Verses Word For Word!
 - He Conveniently Ignores The Context Of The Entire Psalm!
 - Because - The Entire Psalm Is About:
 - The Grasp That God Has On His Son!
 - Proven Through His Presence, His Love, And His Word!
 - There Is Still A Great Battle Going On:
 - Between What God Says & What The Devil Says!
 - It's A War Of Words!
 - Which Is Why The Words:
 - That We Hear:
 - With Our Ears!
 - And - The Words:
 - That We Harbor:
 - In Our Hearts!
 - Are So Important!
 - Especially If We Want Greater Victory:
 - Over The Enemies Of The World, Our Flesh, And The Devil!
 - So - Through Both The Space & The Suggestion:
 - The Devil Is Trying To Get Jesus:
 - To Question The Grasp Of His Father:
 - Upon Him! Even:
 - The Affection & Relationship Of His Father - Who Just Called Him:
 - "My Beloved Son!"
 - Many Have Noted That This Temptation:
 - Is A Temptation Directed To:
 - "The Lust / Desires / Affections Of The Eyes!"
 - That We Also Find In 1 John 2:16!

- Because - If You Can't "See" God's Love:
 - In Physical & Visible Ways:
 - Perhaps His Love Is Just A Figment Of Your Imagination!
 - Perhaps Jesus Was Just Hearing Things When He Was Baptized!
 - Is God's Word & God's Grasp Real?
- But - What Is That "One Little Word" That Can "Fell" The Devil?
 - Liar! Because Jesus Knew That:
 - His Father's Word Was Real & True:
 - And His Grasp On Him:
 - Was Tight! Tighter Than:
 - We Can Even Imagine!
 - So Tight That:
 - He Is In The Father & The Father Is In Him! (John 14)
 - And Even Though:
 - Jesus Was Hungry & Weak & Suffering:
 - And Would Even Go Through More Suffering In This World!
 - In Faith & Trust:
 - Jesus Once Again Pulls Out:
 - The "Sword Of The Spirit" And Tells The Devil:
 - From Deuteronomy 6:16 - "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God!" (4:7)
 - Now - Jesus Did Not Just Say This:
 - For His Own Sake - He Said It:
 - For The Devil's Sake!
 - He Knew What The Devil Was Up To!
 - And - The Devil Was Wrong:
 - In Tempting Him! The Lord His God!
 - And - This Was Like A Warning Shot Across The Bow:
 - Of The Devil's Ship!
 - But - The Devil Would Still Try:
 - Just One More Time!
- But - When The Devil Attempts To Tempt You:
 - In The Way He Tempted Christ:
 - Remember That "One Little Word!"
 - Liar!
 - Because - When He Tries To Get You:
 - To Question God's Grasp On You:
 - Remember That You Can Trust:
 - Every Promise That He Has Made To You:
 - In His Word!
 - Those - "Exceeding Great & Precious Promises!"
 - And You Can "See" His Loving Grasp:
 - In The Arms Of Jesus Christ:
 - Which Were Opened Wide For You On The Cross Of Calvary!

* And Then - When We Come To:

3. ***The Third Temptation:***

- In 4:8-9 - The Devil Tries To Get Jesus:
 - To Experience The Same Downfall:
 - That He Did - The Downfall:
 - Of Pride! And So:
- 4:8-9 - "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; / And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me!"
 - Now - Even Though There Are A Lot Of:
 - Unanswered Questions:
 - About These Temptations - And:
 - Especially This One!

- Like - Was This A:
 - Physical Or Spiritual Experience?
- And - If Physical:
 - What Mountain Would Have Such A Vantage Point?
- And Even - How:
 - Could The Devil Show Him “All The Kingdoms Of The World” - Even In - “A Moment Of Time!” (Luke 4:5)
- We Just Need To Take God’s Word:
 - As It Is! I May Not Know *How*:
 - Jesus Was Tempted In These Ways! But I Do Know:
 - *That* Jesus Was Tempted In These Ways!
- So That - As We Are Told In:
 - Hebrews 4:15 - You & I Can Have:
 - “A Great High Priest” - Who Can Be “Touched With The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!” Because:
 - He Was “In All Points Tempted Like We Are, Yet Without Sin!”
- And So - The Devil Shows To Jesus:
 - The Greatness Of His Dominion:
 - In This World!
 - Since - He Had To Take Him Up To:
 - “An Exceeding High Mountain” To Do So!
 - Because The Devil’s Dominion Is So Vast:
 - The Vantage Point Had To Be:
 - So High!
 - And - He Wanted Jesus:
 - To Be Impressed!
 - But Then - He Also Shows Jesus:
 - The Glory Of His Dominion!
 - Because Of The “Glory” Of:
 - “All The Kingdoms Of The World!”
 - Again - Just To Get Jesus:
 - To Be Impressed!
 - And - To Tempt Jesus In The Arena:
 - Of “The Pride Of Life!”
 - Which We Also Find In 1 John 2:16!
 - “All These Things Will I Give Thee!”
 - But - Once Again:
 - There Is More To This Temptation:
 - Than Just Appealing To The Human Ambitions Of Jesus!
 - He Was Trying To Get Jesus:
 - To Question The Glory Of His Father!
 - And Even - To Forget About:
 - The Glory He Had With His Father From The Beginning!
 - Is The Glory Of What You Can See:
 - Greater Than The Glory Of What You Can’t See?
 - Is The Glory Of The Temporary:
 - Greater Than The Glory Of The Timeless?
 - Is The Glory Of This World:
 - Greater Than The Glory Of Heaven?
 - Is The Glory Of Man:
 - Greater Than The Glory Of God?
 - Of Course - The Answer Is A Resounding - No!
 - Because - The Devil Is A Liar!
 - There Is No Greater Glory:
 - Than God’s Glory!
 - Jesus Didn’t Need:
 - The Devil’s Way To Glory!
 - Because Jesus Already Possessed:

- All The Glory He Needed!
- And - He Was On The True Path:
 - Of Glory - For God's Glory:
 - That Is Timeless & True!
- And So - Jesus Proves His Own Glory:
 - By Commanding The Devil:
 - 4:10 - "Get The Hence Satan!"
 - Since He Didn't Heed:
 - His Warning The First Time!
 - And - Jesus Commands The Devil:
 - With Just His Powerful Word!
- And Then - One More Time:
 - Jesus Pulls Out The "Sword Of The Spirit!"
 - And - From Deuteronomy 6:13 - Tells Him - "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve!"
 - Again - Jesus Did Not Just Say This:
 - For His Own Sake:
 - But For The Devil's!
- And - What Happens Next?
 - 4:11 - "Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him!"
 - The Devil Is Powerless:
 - Before The Word Of Christ!
 - And God The Father:
 - Proves His Goodness To Jesus, His Grasp On Jesus, And His Glory To Jesus:
 - One More Time - By Sending His Angels To Minister To Jesus' Needs!

Conclusion:

1. We To Need To Remember:
 - When The Devil Attempts To Tempt You:
 - In The Ways He Tempted Christ:
 - "One Little Word Shall Fell Him!"
 - Liar!
2. When The Devil Tries:
 - To Get You To Question:
 - God's Goodness:
 - By Making You Think That:
 - He Has Forgotten You Or Forsaken You:
 - In The Wilderness Of This World!
 - Remember That:
 - He Is A Liar!
 - God Is Still & Always Good!
 - Because - He Tells Us In His Word:
 - "I Will Never Leave Thee, Nor Forsake Thee!" (Hebrews 13:5)
3. When The Devil Tries:
 - To Get You To Question:
 - God's Grasp:
 - On You - By Making You Think That:
 - Whatever You Are Going Through:
 - Means He Does Not Care Or Have Any Concern For You!
 - Remember That:
 - He Is A Liar!
 - God Still & Always Will Have His Grasp On You -
 - Because - He Tells Us In His Word:
 - "Yea, I Have Loved Thee With An Everlasting Love! Therefore With Lovingkindness Have I Drawn Thee!" (Jeremiah 31:3)
4. And - When The Devil Tries:

- To Get You To Question:
 - God's Glory!
 - By Making You Think That:
 - What This World Can Offer You:
 - Is Greater Than What God Can Offer You!
 - Remember That:
 - He Is A Liar!
 - There Is No Glory Greater Than God's Glory!
 - Because - Even:
 - "The Heavens Declare The Glory Of God; And The Firmament Sheweth His Handywork!" (Psalm 19:1)
 - And - There Is Noone & There Is Nothing:
 - That Can Compare To Him!
5. The Devil's Delusion:
- Was That He Could Tempt Jesus:
 - In These Ways!
 - But - He Still Tries:
 - By Tempting Us!
 - But - We Can Fight On:
 - "Because Greater Is He That Is In You, Than He That Is In The World!" (1 John 4:4)
 - And - Like Jesus:
 - Take Out "The Sword Of The Spirit" From Its Sheath:
 - And Use It To Fight The Lies Of The Devil:
 - With The Truth Of God's Word!
6. When The Devil Makes:
- A New Attempt To Tempt You:
 - Remember That - Just "One Little Word Shall Fell Him!"
 - Just Call Him What He Is!
 - "Liar!"
 - And Then - Let The Truth:
 - About God's Goodness & Grasp & Glory:
 - All Found In Jesus:
 - Be Your Victory!

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