

Matthew 4:1-11

We started looking last week at this account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. We are looking at this event from three different angles.

1. The Battle
2. The Weapon
3. The Victory

Last week we looked at the battle. We saw that....

1. It is a Spirit led battle.
2. It is a spiritual battle.
3. It is a serious battle.

The kingdom of darkness that sought to displace the Messiah in the beginning, **destroy** the Messiah at his nativity, **discredit** the Messiah in the temptation and **defeat** Him at his crucifixion is absolutely committed to **devouring** His followers until the end of time.

1. In light of these facts, we need to understand not only the battle, but the weapon and strategy that Jesus used in this battle.
2. The primary weapon that Jesus used in his battle with the devil was the Word of God

READ/PRAY

*Ephesians 6:13-17 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

1. The word of God was the Son of God's weapon against the enemy of God.
2. We get much insight from how Jesus used the sword of the Spirit to overcome the temptations of Satan.

v1-3

1. Jesus responds with Scripture v4
2. Jesus' weapon was the word of God...specifically in this case Deuteronomy 8:3
3. As we look at the context of Jesus' choice of text, we see some major parallels.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

*All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers. 2 You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years,*

1. God led the children of Israel around in the wilderness for 40 years.
2. The Spirit led Jesus around in the wilderness for 40 days!

*that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.*

1. He led the children for 40 years that he might test them.
2. He tested the children of Israel to see if they would keep his commandments or not. They failed!
3. The same exact word is used in Matthew 3 to describe what happens to Jesus: testing.
4. He tested Jesus and He proved faithful, sinless... He did it perfectly.

*3 He humbled you and let you be hungry,*

1. God allowed the children of Israel to go without food....to get hungry and complain
2. We read in Matthew 4:2 that Jesus became hungry, but he didn't sin or complain

*and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.*

1. Does this sound familiar?
2. It should, because this is where Jesus takes the devil in his first response.
3. The Lord used the testing in the wilderness and their hunger to teach them that their lives are sustained by the provision of the Lord

*4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. 5 Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. 6 Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. 7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.*

1. God is taking the children of Israel through the wilderness for forty years, in dependence upon Him, to test them, but ultimately to lead them into the promised land.
2. He led them out of Egypt by the hand of Moses and will lead them into the promised land by the hand of Joshua
3. God has led Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days, in dependence upon Him, to test Him, and ultimately to pave the way for you and me to inherit the land.
4. God is saying, I am going to save my people from the world (Egypt) and from sin by the new Joshua.
5. He will open the door for the promised land to you and me through His death and resurrection!

Jesus pulls Deuteronomy 8 out of his arsenal and subtly points us to the fact that **He** is the ultimate fulfillment of all the promises of God.

1. 2 Corinthians 1:20 *For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.*
2. The greatest promise He points us to, is that He has come to lead us into the true and final promised land!

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used specifically Deuteronomy 8:1-10? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?