

**“Your faith has made you well.”**

### **The Temptation of Jesus**

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4** But he answered, “It is written,



‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

**5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

**7** Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

**8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; **9** and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

**11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

A. The Setting of the Temptation (4:1-2)

1. First move: Does not preach/teach; Jesus fasts. Desert: solitary time to prepare himself spiritually.
2. Reminiscent of the children of Israel—Exodus from Egypt.
3. Fasting: Discipline with a focus on prayer.
4. Spirit Led—commune with Father and engage the enemy (withstand Satan’s temptations).
5. Devil—*diabolos*; accuser—an intelligent, powerful spirit-being that is thoroughly evil and is directly involved in perpetrating evil in the lives of individuals as well as on a much larger scale. Eph. 2:2—“the ruler of the kingdom of the air.” Real enemy of God (Matt. 13:39).
6. Temptation—an enticement to get a person to go contrary to God’s will. Test—tries to get a person to prove himself or herself faithful to God’s will. C.f. James 1:13 or Hebrews 11:17.
7. Jesus is the fulfillment of Adam. Jesus is victorious! Through His obedience—we receive the gracious gift of salvation! Victorious outcome confirms Jesus’ identity.

B. First Temptation: Turn Stones into Bread (4:3-4)                      Personal Attack

1. Power of manipulation and flattery: “If you are...”; Satan does not doubt Jesus’ identity. Satan is trying to get Jesus to misuse his prerogatives as the son of God—“you don’t have to be hungry—take control!”
2. Jesus focuses on the fact: essence of life is trusting God’s Word; Deuteronomy 8:3.

C. Second Temptation: Jump off the Temple (4:5-7)      National Responsibility

1. Highest point of temple—Jerusalem—overlooked Kidron Valley (450 feet).
2. Testing of Jesus: Intentionally putting himself in harm’s way. Does the Father really love Jesus? If he does, Satan says prove it!
3. Essence of Biblical Faith: taking God at his Word and being obedient to it without needing other confirmation. “Your faith has made you well.”

D. Third Temptation: Worship Satan (4:8-10)                      Universal Responsibility

1. Jesus purpose—gather the nations into the Kingdom of God; The devil offers Jesus a shortcut; all control without paying the human travail and suffering on the cross. Devil thinks he is in control—twisting reality.
2. The Father’s will for Jesus life is the cross.
3. Rebuking the devil: “Away from me, Satan!” The Father alone is worthy of worship.

E. Outcome of the Temptations (4:11)

1. After rebuke: “then the devil left him.”
2. Angels came and attended him.” Establishment of God’s reign throughout the universe.