

The gospel according to
MATTHEW

Part 7

MARK 1 : 12 - 13

The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him.

Outline of Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

v 1 & 2 : The Setting

COMPARE

ADAM

In Perfect Garden

Content

With Perfect Mate

CHRIST

In Desert

Hungry

Alone

CONTRAST

ADAM

Self-Assertion

(He wanted his own way)

Brought much
Trouble

—Death

—Condemnation

Disobeyed God's
Word

CHRIST

Self-Sacrifice

(He wanted God's way)

Brings much Good

—Life

—Justification

“I always do the
will of Him who
sent Me.”

Outline of Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

v 3 & 4 : The First Temptation

DEUTERONOMY 8 : 2 - 3

And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you

DEUTERONOMY 8 : 2 - 3

know that man does not live by bread alone,
but man lives by every word that comes
from the mouth of the Lord.

JOHN 4 : 34

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.”

Outline of Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

v 5 - 7 : The Second Temptation

- In regard to presuming upon God
- A spectacular, but pointless miracle
- Test the faithlessness of God in a purely arbitrary manner

ANSWER:

You should not test the Lord your God.

Outline of Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

v 8 - 10 : The Third Temptation

- In regard to human ambition he offers to Jesus unlimited human power

ANSWER:

There is only one ambition that should be sought after; to bring glory to God and serve Him only.

MATTHEW 4 : 11

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

THE TEMPTER'S WAY

2 CORINTHIANS 2 : 11

...so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

1. LOOK TO JESUS!

Hebrews 2 : 17 - 18

Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4 : 14 - 16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of

Hebrews 4 : 14 - 16

grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. The devil would love to get you to use your gifts for yourself rather than for God's glory and purposes.

[Matthew 4 : 3 – 4]

A. He introduces doubt against the clear pronouncements of God

—Matthew 4 : 3

“If”—This is My Beloved Son

—Genesis 3 : 1

“Did God really say...?”

2 : 16 -17

B. He incites dissatisfaction.

—Matthew 4 : 3

Why be hungry any longer?

A plea for impatience & self-will

—Genesis 3 : 5

For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

**C. Don't have a narrow selfish
focus as you serve Almighty God.**

3. He sends an all out assault against the Word.

—Matthew 4 : 6

Misuse of Scripture

—Genesis 3 : 4

“You will not surely die.”

4. He offers the easy way out . . . later on, it's terrible

—Matthew 4 : 8 - 9

Don't go the way of the cross
(God's way). . . It's painful,
traumatic, and difficult.

Enjoy power the easy way.

5. His attacks are not naïve, simple, or easy. He is viciously energized in an all out effort to defeat his victim.

—Parallel passage Luke 4:13

In Greek, could read like this:

“When the devil had ended every possible kind of temptation, he departed...”

5. His attacks are not naïve, simple, or easy. He is viciously energized in an all out effort to defeat his victim.

—1 Peter 5 : 8

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

6. His plan is to tempt you at just the right time.

—Luke 4 : 13

...he departed from him until *an opportune time*.

—Ephesians 6 : 13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in *the evil day*, and having done all, to stand firm.

**THERE IS NO FREEDOM FROM
TEMPTATION IN THIS LIFE.**