

AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL TO SEE
(Matthew 4:1-11)

I. Jesus was prepared to meet temptation.

- A. A lot of times we fail in whatever it is in which we engage, because there was not proper preparation.
 - 1. SWAT teams train repeatedly for that one moment they have to enter a house.
 - 2. Military units train over and over for that moment where they have to enter real combat.
 - 3. Many business ventures fail because the preparation put into it was not what it needed to be.
- B. The same holds true when dealing with temptation.
- C. Our text tells us that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.
 - 1. Mark's account is more vivid, where it reads "The Spirit driveth Him into the wilderness" (Mark 1:12).
 - 2. Jesus was led into the wilderness on purpose.
- D. Temptation comes when our own desires are aroused (James 1:14).
 - 1. The desires of Jesus were very aroused at that moment.
 - 2. He had a great desire for food and water.
- E. There was a great desire and then notice how Satan worded the temptation.
 - 1. Satan knew Jesus was in a weakened state and was hoping that weakness would cause the human side of Jesus to act rashly and prove He was the Son of God.
 - 2. McGarvey noted that it would be difficult to think of a stronger temptation with which to deal for our Lord.
- F. However, Jesus was prepared because He had the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. By that, I don't mean in some miraculous way.
 - 2. If that were the case, then this account would be worthless to us in today's world.
- G. What I mean is that He used the Sword of the Spirit to ward off these temptations.
 - 1. Each temptation was answered with "it is written."
 - 2. Don't you think Jesus had spent time before this, learning these passages?
 - 3. Some might say that He was God and would have known them, but that would take away from the effect of this account on us as well.
- H. We have got to arm ourselves with the Sword of the Spirit in order to properly deal with temptation (Ephesians 6:17).
 - 1. Daniel, as we noticed a couple of weeks ago, prepared his heart to follow God (Daniel 1:8).
 - 2. Ezra had done the same thing (Ezra 7:10).
- I. It takes a conscious decision on our part and great desire to battle temptation.

J. If we don't prepare ourselves we won't stand up to Satan.

II. Jesus was persistent.

A. If something works, we stick with it don't we?

B. Jesus never went anywhere else but God's word.

C. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

1. Temptation is a test of our faith in God.

2. God wants us to pass that test so He gives us a way of escape.

3. At the judgment, we won't be able to say there was no alternative to the temptation.

D. We have got to be persistent in our refusal to give in to Satan.

E. Joseph was persistent in resisting Mrs. Potiphar (Genesis 39:10).

1. She tempted Joseph daily.

2. Finally, he just had to run.

3. Sometimes that is the best way to avoid sinning.

4. Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22).

F. If we think Satan will only come once at us, we are mistaken.

III. Jesus prevailed.

A. When one is prepared for what may come and is persistent in using what works, he or she will prevail.

B. This is exactly what happened for Jesus.

C. As soon as the last temptation was rebuffed, Satan fled.

1. He did not go away forever as Luke tells us he departed for a season.

2. One version renders that "until a better opportunity."

D. God has told us what happens when we resist Satan (James 4:7).

1. To resist means to take a stand against.

2. When we take a stand against Satan, he runs like a coward.

E. He is like a roaring lion wanting to devour us, but he has no heart for a fight.

F. One might ask, "How long do I have to be persistent?"

G. The answer is in Revelation 2:10.

IV. Jesus gives us some things to ponder.

A. We have the same adversary as Jesus.

B. We have the same type temptations as Jesus.

1. 1 John 2:15-16.

2. Jesus faced each of these avenues as well.

C. We have the same defenses Jesus had and in some ways better.

1. He had the Old Testament and we have the New, which the book of Hebrews informs us is better.

2. He had faith in God that stayed with Him in times of temptation.

3. He had prayer, which He taught us is a defense as well (Matthew 26:41).