Seeing The Real Temptation

Bruce Reeves · Matthew 4:1–11

INTRODUCTION

- When you are facing temptation, what is really going on?
- When it comes to temptation, there is always more at stake than what we think is at stake.
- Our ability to overcome the temptation to sin is rooted in and has everything to do with our confidence in the Lord.

1 The Connection Between Christ's Temptations and Ours

Matthew 4:1; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Hebrews 2:17–18

- It reveals and exposes strategic information about how Satan approaches us.
- For since he himself was tempted in that which he suffered, he is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.
- Christ's temptation proves something else to us and benefits us. It gives us hope. We fall short. But Jesus was sinless. But it shows us we can resist.

2 Always More at Stake Than What You Think

- Your future, the future of your family and loved ones, and your faith. Your confidence in God. Always.
- Satan doesn't have to get every choice. He's just got to get one here and there. Because it's like hitting that first domino.
- We can behave ourselves out of belief in God.
- I must say, Satan. You don't get my future, you don't get my family, and you don't get my faith.

3 The Real Force of the First Temptation

Matthew 4:2–4; Deuteronomy 8:2–5

- What he's trying to do is to get the servant, Messiah, to step out of his role as servant.
- So what was the real question for Christ? Will God really take care of me?
- 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 God.
- You can't trust in yourself. You must trust in God.

4 Satan Tempted Jesus to Presume on God

Matthew 4:5–7; Psalm 91:1–2; Deuteronomy 6:16

- He tries to take his strength, his reliance on God, and use that reliance on God as a temptation, but he's got to slide something else in. And the something else is pride.
- He does not inaccurately recite that passage. But he does inaccurately apply the passage.

- I'm not going to presume on God's will. I'm going to stand on what he has said.
- You shall not put the Lord your God to the test as you tested him at Massah.

5 The Father's Will Without Sacrifice

Matthew 4:8–10; Matthew 16:22–24; Deuteronomy 6:13

- I will give you the Father's will without you having to sacrifice the way the Father wants you to sacrifice.
- Peter, don't get between me and the cross.
- You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.
- Easily winning the world without God's sacrifice. The Lamb would have become the beast.

6 Overcome Temptation by Emphatically Saying No

Matthew 4:10–11

- You don't play with temptation. You overcome it.
- We overcome temptation by emphatically saying no to Satan.
- We need to watch for temptation at the high points of our life, be careful in times of vulnerability and weakness, be cautious of our strengths and know the word of God.

THE CHALLENGE

Can you say to Satan what Jesus said to Satan? That's what you must say to Satan. Don't be like King Saul. Be like the prophet of God. And hack sin to pieces.

MY NOTES