

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Mic Drops Satan

If Jesus was “God Incarnate”, and God “cannot be tempted with evil” (James 1:13), then why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted and why would it even be in the bible? Notice this event occurs right after Jesus was baptized, right before He began his public ministry and teaching. Both Father and Son knew that Jesus could not be led into sin, so this test cannot be for God or Jesus benefit. So why did Jesus go into the wilderness so He could “Mic Drop” Satan?

Does it help to replace the word “tempted” and read it with the word “tested”? Who was this test for then?

Before answering that question completely, we need to take a journey back to Genesis in the Garden of Eden. Read Genesis 3:6. On your paper, write down in big letters “The Temptations of Adam and Eve: Genesis 3:6”. Now write down the three temptations that they fell for listed in Genesis 3:6. (and remember, Adam was just as guilty in all this because he knew what was going on. Eve didn’t force feed Adam!)

1. **Temptation 1:** “good for food”. **Where does food end up? What does food ‘feed’?** This temptation was appealing to the body. Example (sleep vs church)
2. **Temptation 2:** “pleasant to the eyes”. **When you see things you want or desire, especially things that you find more important than God and His desires for you, where do those sights go? What is fed when you fill your eyes with ungodly desires?** This temptation was appealing to the soul. Example (choosing shiny things over knowing you should tithe)
3. **Temptation 3:** “make one wise”. **What does worldly wisdom fuel? If we think we are smarter than someone else, or get a sense of pride and arrogance in knowledge, what are we really trying to do?** This temptation was appealing to the spirit. Example (Our human desires to outdo or feel better than others)
4. **Satan confronted man with a three-fold temptation in BODY, SOUL, and SPIRIT.** We face these same temptations almost daily in our lives, and we fail more often than not. We are deceived many times just as Adam and Eve were.

In Genesis, Adam and Eve are the representatives of mankind. They obviously failed the “test”. They were not able to resist the temptations Satan set before them. Do you think any other human being throughout time in this situation would do any better? What about you? What you do any better? Some may say YES! Let’s see what the bible says. Turn to 1 John 2:16. John lays out three classes of temptations that we’ll face in life. Basically, every sinful thing humans can do fall into one of these three classes. (Sinful things, as in, things that are against God wills and brings a lot of hurt to our lives) On your paper, write down in big letters “The Temptations of Mankind: 1 John 2:16”. What are the 3 classes? Write them down. Lust of the flesh(body), Lust of the eyes(soul), and the Pride of Life (soul).

Look at your list you wrote down from Genesis 3:6 and compare it with your 1 John 2:16 list. Anything jump out at you? The 3 ways in which Satan deceived Eve into sin are the same 3 ways that Satan deceives us into sin.

So then, do you think anyone else would do any better than Adam or Eve against the temptations of the BODY, SOUL, and PRIDE?

It doesn't take very long to start making a list of sins that we have faced, may be facing right now, or that our friends or family are facing or have faced. Even more scary, there are sins and temptations that you have not even experienced or thought about that you will face as you get older. Let's list some sins out that young people face today and see what class they fall in from the classes John 2:16 gives us.

- **List some here...**
- Whether openly secretly in our mind, we have all not passed the "test" perfectly. We are not all that different from Adam and Eve. We are faced with temptations of the body, soul, and spirit just as Adam and Eve were. Adam and Eve couldn't resist the temptations and many times we have not either.
- We would not fare any better. Satan would deceive us eventually if that were we in the Garden of Eden. If someone does not think so, then we should ask ourselves "have we lived a life never once falling into temptations of the body, soul, or pride. Definitely not.
- So what, do we just give up? Do we just say, that's just how it is? Is there any hope to break free from the sin that clutches our souls? Sin chokes the life out of us. It brings destruction. It hurts us and hurts others as well. Sin is not supposed to be what defines us as Christians. The Christian represents life, not death. **IS THERE AN ANSWER, A HOPE, TO OUR SIN PROBLEM??**

Story of changed lives here.....

The bible teaches that all people were born into sin because we are descendants of Adam and Eve. All people begin as a product "of the world" and are held captive by "the world". When a "worldly" person accepts Jesus Christ as their savior, they are made a new creation. They are no longer "worldly". They are freed from the world and are then owned by God. While they may still struggle with temptations, they are forgiven through Christ's payment on the cross. So let's make it personal.

When you accepted Christ as your salvation, it was because you realized that you had sins in your lives, and you didn't like it. It doesn't matter if you are a bible-scholar or even understand completely some things in the bible. It doesn't matter what event or thought that sparked you to seek God and even realize that you needed "saving". That thing was God. Some people's journey starts with a fear of Hell. Join the club...The bible is full of famous characters who began their journey with a "fear and trembling of God". But as we learn about Jesus, we learn that Jesus was "God Incarnate" who came to dwell among the people he created, and realize that God is a loving, but still just, God, who loves you. It works on you and moves you to a respectful but loving relationship with a God who already has declared His extreme love for you. **Those classes of sin in 1 John 2:16 define the unsaved, but are not supposed to define the Christian any more. We are under a new authority.**

What we have learned so far:

1. Adam and Eve specifically could not resist the temptations of sin on their own. (Genesis 3:6)
2. We cannot resist the temptations of sin on our own either (We're not supposed to anymore) (John 2:16)
3. The temptations of Adam and Eve are the same temptations we face.

At the beginning of class, we asked for whose benefit did Jesus go into the wilderness to face Satan's temptations? God and Jesus both knew that the temptations would not work. Why did He do this, and especially do this right at the beginning of His public ministry?

Read Matthew Chapter 4:1-11. Write down "The Temptations of Christ: Matthew 4:1-11" and list the three temptations that Christ faced.

1. **"Command these stones to be made bread"**
 - a. Jesus was fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. Can you imagine how hungry he was?
 - b. How does this compare to the first class of temptations in John 2:16 and the first temptation of Eve in Genesis 3:6?
 - c. This was a temptation of the body. Satan was targeting Jesus urgent physical need of food.
 - d. Jesus mic drops Satan with a verse from Deuteronomy 10:20. Jesus lets Satan know that man does not truly "live", as in eternally, by food. So He resists the temptation for something eternal, not temporarily satisfying.
2. **"Cast yourself down off this pinnacle. It is written in the bible that the angels will keep you safe and serve you. If you're really the Son of God, jump!!"**
 - a. How does this compare to the second class of John and the second temptation of Eve?
 - b. This was a temptation of the soul. Satan was appealing to the human desire for recognition and approval. Can't we all relate?
 - c. Satan knows the Scriptures as well, very well, and attempted to distort Psalms 91:11-12 for his own purpose. He takes the verse completely out of context and purposely omits the key phrase "to keep thee in all thy ways."
 - d. Jesus mic drops Satan with a verse from Deuteronomy 6:16. That we are not to try and tempt/test God. Jesus resists the temptation of the soul.
3. **"Let me take you up to the highest mountain and show you all the kingdoms of the earth and their glory. All these kingdoms, all the power and glory on earth... It can all be yours. All you have to do is fall down and worship me."**
 - a. How does this compare to the third class of John and the third temptation of Eve?
 - b. This was a temptation of the soul, in the form of an offer. The **immediate attainment**, not by God or on God's time, of His spiritual goal of making the entire world His own Kingdom of peace and love. All He had to do was worship Satan.
 - c. Jesus mic drops Satan with a verse from Deuteronomy 10:20. That we are to worship no other God than the one, true God the Creator. Jesus resists the temptation of the spirit.
4. **JESUS PASSES ALL THE TEMPTATIONS – Something Adam and Eve could not do, and something you and I could not do.**

The Purpose of the Temptations in the Wilderness

1. Benefits for us:
 - a. **We must know from the start that Jesus is who He says He is:** The world must know that Jesus could not sin. The fate of humanity rested in this fact. If Jesus did sin, then His death on the cross would not bring salvation. He had to be the perfect, unblemished "lamb".

- b. **Jesus had to make a statement to Satan:** Jesus needed to reiterate to Satan that He could not be fooled by him and that the chance for salvation will come to God's people.
- c. **You don't have to be God or Jesus to successfully resist temptations of sin:** Jesus did this in His Humanity without using His Power as the Son of God. Something no other human was or is able to do.
- d. **But...You DO need the power of Jesus working through you to resist temptations of sin:** Adam and Eve failed on their own, we have failed many times on our own, Jesus did not fail so **that is our source of power**. He did it and can help us do it as well.
- e. **Jesus resisted and out-witted Satan through the use of belief, prayer, and scripture:** The Son of God used these tools... How much more important is it for us to use them. Satan used pieces of distorted scripture taken out of context to tempt Jesus. Jesus knew the scriptures as well and corrected Satan's false interpretations.
- f. **Whatever sin, whatever crutch, whatever battle you are going through, Jesus CAN relate.** The temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness, He faced in His humanity. He experienced these attacks emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Whatever is attacking you, Jesus can relate to them in love and understanding. Jesus is NOT unaware of how hard temptations can be to resist and what it feels like to go through it.

The Consistency of the Bible from the Old Testament to the New Testament and how it all ties together

The Temptations of Eve

Genesis 3:6

1. "good for food" → appealing to the body
2. "pleasant to the eyes" → appealing to the soul
3. "make one wise" → appealing to the spirit

The Temptations of Mankind

1 John 2:14

1. Lust of the flesh(body)
2. Lust of the eyes(soul)
3. Pride of Life(spirit)

The Temptations of Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

1. "command these stones to be made bread" → temptation of the body
2. "cast yourself down off this pinnacle...If you're really the Son of God, Jump!" → temptation of the spirit
3. "All these kingdoms, all the power and glory on earth, it can be yours..." → temptation of the soul

Adam and Eve couldn't resist the temptations (Genesis), mankind has not been able to do it either (1 John), but Jesus was able to (Matthew). Hence, only through Christ can temptations be overcome.

For Further Study

Read and compare how all these verses link together and relate to one another.

1 John 2:16	Genesis 3:6	James 3:15	Luke 4:2-12
Lust of flesh (body)	Good to eat	Earthly	Victory over appetite
Lust of eyes (soul)	Good to see	Sensual	Victory over covetousness
Pride of Life (spirit)	Good to know	Devilish	Victory over pride