



Matthew 4:1-11

# THE TEMPTATION OF THE KING

*None of us can come to the highest maturity without enduring the summer heat of trials. On some few occasions I have had troubles which I could not tell to any but my God, and I thank God I have, for I learned more of my Lord then than at any other time. Our troubles have always brought us blessings, and they always will. They are the dark chariots of bright grace. Stars may be seen from the bottom of a deep well, when they cannot be discerned from the top of a mountain. So are many things learned in adversity which the prosperous man dreams not of. The anvil, the fire and the hammer are the making of us. The Christian gains by his losses. He acquires health by his sickness. He wins friends through his bereavements. He becomes a conqueror through his defeats. The tears of affliction are often needed to keep the eye of faith bright. There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials. There is nothing that makes a man have a big heart like a great trial. We find no sword-blades so true in metal as those which have been forged in the furnace of soul-trouble.*

—Charles H. Spurgeon

## A Brief Outline of the Gospel of Matthew:

- I. The Preparation of the King (1:1-4:11)
- II. The Proclamation of the King (4:12-16:20)
- III. The Passion of the King (16:21-28:20)

## What is the wilderness?

Greek, *eremos*, an uninhabited, lonely, desolate, dangerous place. It is a place of deprivation. It is the place where God tested His people, Israel, on their way to the Promised Land.

*Out of Egypt — Through the Waters — Into the Wilderness*  
(Matthew 2)                      (Matthew 3)                      (Matthew 4)

*Remember that the Lord your God led you on the entire journey these forty years in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands. (Deuteronomy 8:2)*

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR THE WILDERNESS

### 1. God often \_\_\_\_\_ us into the wilderness.

- The wilderness is not a sign of His \_\_\_\_\_.
- The wilderness reveals our \_\_\_\_\_.
- The wilderness is the experience of \_\_\_\_\_ follower of Christ.

*Jesus' fast of forty days and nights reflected Israel's forty year wandering... Both "sons" were tested by God's design, the one after being redeemed from Egypt and the other after his baptism, to prove their obedience and loyalty in preparation for their appointed work. The one "son" failed but pointed to the "Son" who would never fail. In this sense the temptations legitimized Jesus as God's true Son.*

—D. A. Carson

*Baptism does not drown the devil.*  
—Jerome (342-420)

*In the dark night of the soul,  
Bright flows the river of God.*  
—John of the Cross (1542-91)

*God uses the desert of the soul—our suffering and difficulties, our pain, our dark nights—to form us, to make us beautiful souls. He redeems what we might deem our living hells, if we allow him. The hard truth, then, is this: everyone who follows Jesus is eventually called into the desert.*

—Marlena Graves

2. Satan tempts us at a \_\_\_\_\_ and in a \_\_\_\_\_ of weakness.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)*

3. Satan attacks us in three primary ways (cf. 1 John 2:16).

- \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of life.

*When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)*

4. Satan loves to \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture for his own purposes.

5. Jesus gains victory over Satan with \_\_\_\_\_.

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God accurately.
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God boldly.
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God faithfully.

6. We gain victory in the wilderness when we are filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16).

7. God will never \_\_\_\_\_ you in the wilderness.

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

**Responding to God's Word:**

- What is your wilderness? What are you struggling with right now?
- How are you responding? Are you ignoring God, demanding things from Him, forsaking Him, or learning daily how to trust Him more?
- What truth from God's Word can you hold onto in the wilderness?

**Tempt.** Greek, *peirazo*, "to try or test intentionally, with the purpose of discovering what good or evil, what power or weakness, was in a person or thing" (Wuest)

*Satan tempts that he may ruin;  
God tests that He may crown.*  
—Ambrose (339-397)

*Satan, like a fisher, baits his hook  
according to the appetite of the  
fish.* —Thomas Adams

*Our teachers have taught, when  
the King, the Messiah, reveals  
himself, he will come and stand  
up on the roof of the Temple.*  
—Pesiqta Rabbati, 36

*Satan himself has a Bible under  
his arm and a text in his mouth!*  
—Bishop Hall (1574-1656)

*This is a temptation to presumption,  
a rash reliance upon God's  
protecting care in situations  
where He has not promised it or  
where the danger is a voluntary  
or a self-produced one.*  
—Joseph Addison Alexander

*It is wrong to demand that God  
prove Himself faithful to His  
promises by giving us what He  
has promised **on our terms**.*  
—Thomas Constable

*Out flashed the sword of the  
Spirit! Our Lord will fight with no  
other weapon. He could have  
spoken new revelations, but  
chose to say, "It is written."*  
—Charles H. Spurgeon

*Satan's goal in all three temptations  
was to get Jesus to act  
independently of the Father  
rather than submit to the will of  
God, which included the cross.*  
—Steve Cole