



SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus

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Friday, 11/05/2021

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-4

TITLE: How to Defeat Temptation

“The devil made me do it.” Have you ever thought that? Have you ever heard that? It’s an excuse for when we sin. But is the Devil the problem or it is something else?

You know Jesus was actually tempted by the devil. And in Matthew 4:1-4 we will see how he overcame that temptation. Matthew writes,

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’

“He answered, ‘It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

According to the Gospel of Matthew after Jesus’ baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. Now, we need to stop here. This makes me ask two questions. First, was God leading Jesus into temptation? And second, is the Devil to blame for our sin today?

Well, according to James 1:13, “No one undergoing a trial should say, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn’t tempt anyone.” So, no God does not tempt anyone. But what God does do is provide a way out of temptation. He does use evil and even the devil himself to advance His purposes.

But what about the Devil? Is he to blame for our sinning today? Well, Satan is just one fallen angel. Yes, he is the tempter, the deceiver, a liar, the dragon, and the snake. But he is still just one angelic being. So, no, we can’t blame Satan for our sins. Our sin nature is corrupt. That is why we are prone to sin.

But notice, though hungry, Jesus does not fall to temptation. He defeats temptation with Scripture. In all three temptations in Matthew 4, Jesus defeats temptation with God’s Word. It wasn’t a sin to turn the rocks into bread. It was that Jesus’ coming and humility was to serve others – to save others and not to serve himself. So Jesus’ way out was by knowing God’ Word.

So here’s my challenge for you today: repeat and memorize this: God’s Word is enough. That’s the Pastor Nat version of Matthew 4:4. God’s Word is enough. When you’re tempted to lie, cheat, steal, drink excessively, look at pornography, gossip, or whatever, declare with your

mouth: God's Word is enough. When we follow Jesus' example of engaging in God's Word, we will win the day.