

# THE WHOLE STORY

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From Genesis to Revelation

**Matthew 4:1-11**

## ***Introduction:***

The temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4 is much awaited victory for everyone who has followed along this far in *The Whole Story* reading plan. In this narrative Jesus gives us the type of victory we long for. It is also the type of victory that you and I desperately need.

Yet even in this much awaited victory we must be careful as readers not to skip directly to application and miss what's really going on here. The failures and judgments from the Old Testament that made us long for this passage are also what give this story greater meaning. Jesus was not in the wilderness and without food by chance. He was intentionally in the same position as Israel after the Exodus when they were lost in the wilderness and hungry. Jesus, however did not let his hunger lead to doubt in God, but trusted that the Father would sustain him. It is no accident that Satan shows Jesus the land and tries to entice him with power and avert his Worship from God. Jesus stood with the same choice as the nation of Israel when they took the Promised Land then slowly turned away from God to the idols, but Jesus did not turn away from the Father.

Jesus personally underwent and overcame the same temptations that had plagued God's people for generations. He proved he could be the king that held the law. He was showing us he could be the Judge that did not bow to foreign idols. By proving himself in the face of temptation Jesus revealed that he could stand in front of God on our behalf. This narrative was not recorded so we could have helpful hints about how to resist temptation, but so we could understand whom Jesus is and what he came to do.

## ***This Week's Main Focus:***

***Jesus did not only resist temptation as an example, he did it on our place.***

This is an important key we must remember again and again as we grow in understanding the life of Jesus. He was sinless on our place. He stood before God in our place. He died in our place. He rose from the dead in our place. An example from Jesus would never have been enough because we could have never followed it, but we can have eternal hope because in this passage Jesus reveals that he came to have in our place.

## ***Sermon Discussion Question:***

1) Pastor J.D. pointed out this weekend that it is more naive to not believe in Satan than to believe in him - he is mentioned over 250 times in the New Testament! Where have you experienced spiritual warfare in your life that could in part be specific attacks from Satan?

**Bible Study Questions:     Read Matthew 4:1-11**

2) How many times does Jesus quote the Scripture? What passages does he quote?

3) How many times does Satan quote Scripture? What are his references?

4) Describe Jesus' physical and mental state when this temptation occurred. Why is this important?

5) What is the difference between the ways Jesus uses the Scripture and the way Satan uses it? Read the quoted passages and spot the differences.

6) What does this passage tell us about whom Jesus is?

**Group Application Questions:**

7) In light of this passage what should we do when we are tempted?

8) What does this passage teach us about understanding Scripture?

**Prayer:             Read Psalm 119:121-128**

- Tell God some specific ways you long to see salvation and the fulfillment of his promises.
- As for understand as you commit and re-commit to him as a faithful servant both to God, his church and your fellow man.
- Thank God for the goodness and rightness of his word. Try to use a specific passage that you have read recently.