

**The Great Enemy**  
**Encountering Jesus - part 10**

*Matthew 3-4; April 13, 2014*

**DAY 1**

1. In this series we have looked at how Jesus encountered eleven very different people with, at least on the surface, very different needs. We've looked at topics like skepticism, religiosity, adultery, anguish, shame, failure, hope, faith, etc.

2. This week we'll look at Jesus' encounter with Satan.

*Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*

3. Who does Jesus meet in the desert?

4. What is the mission of the devil in verse 1?

*Matt. 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

5. In v. 1, the enemy is called the devil. What is he called in v. 3?

6. When most people think of being tempted they think of "outside" things, and "big" things, like adultery, substance abuse, suicide, temper meltdown, and conflict. Satan would count those as victories, but how does a person get to a point where he/she would be tempted to do those things? Let's see Satan's plan of attack.

7. In v.3, we have Satan's first temptation of Jesus. What is your first impression of this temptation?

8. What is the significance of the first word in the temptation, "If"?

9. What is Satan trying to create in Jesus? Check all you think may apply:

Doubt about God?

Doubt about God's goodness?

Doubt about Jesus' identity?

A shift in what Jesus' real mission is about?

Detaching Jesus from God as his top priority?

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 2**

*Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

*<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

1. Use this passage to answer the following questions:

a. What words and phrases are used to describe our enemy? (v. 12)

b. What word is used to describe Satan's tactics? (v. 11)

c. What is our mandate against Satan's assault? (v. 10)

d. What two things are we to do in v. 11?

2. Yesterday we saw the subtlety of Satan's first temptation. Would you have recognized it as a temptation from Satan or "just" one of your crazy thoughts?

*Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.<sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

3. List every factor in this passage that "urges" you toward temptation. (Look for at least four ways!)

- From your human nature:
- From Satan and his influence:

4. Which of the above factors does Satan use with you?

### **DAY 3:**

1. Let's look at how Jesus dealt with temptation.

*Matt. 4:3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

2. What was Satan trying to get Jesus to

- Do? \_\_\_\_\_ -
- Focus on? \_\_\_\_\_
- Think? \_\_\_\_\_
- Doubt or at least wonder? \_\_\_\_\_

*Matt. 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

3. How did Jesus respond to this temptation?

4. Jesus responded in several ways. First, He says, "It is written..."

To what is He alluding? \_\_\_\_\_

Read:

*Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but that man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.*

5. Jesus responds by **recalling** what the bible says. He also responds to temptation by **aligning** Himself with the *principles of truth* of God's word. Before we look at what Jesus was thinking, what do you think Satan was tempting Him to think, do, or believe?

a. What is He reminding Himself by, "Man shall not live on bread alone?" Is He talking about "bread" or something else? What does "live" mean in this context?

b. "Man does ...live ...on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

- What does "live" mean?

- What is He saying about the bible? What's the connection between "living" and the bible?

6. What strikes you about how Jesus handled temptation? What was important from this study?

## DAY 4:

1. Let's look at Satan's second temptation of Jesus.

*Matt. 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down....*

*For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."*

2. In what city does this take place?

3. At what place in the city does this take place?

4. How is the second temptation identical to the first? (See Matt. 4:3 in yesterday's study)

5. How is the second temptation different from the first?

6. What do you think Satan wants Jesus to:

a. Do? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Doubt or wonder? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Think? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Believe? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Use His power for? \_\_\_\_\_

f. Be distracted by? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Satan also quotes scripture! (almost...)

*Psalms 91:11 For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

8. Compare Psalm 91:11-12 with what Satan "quoted" in Matt. 4:6. What's missing in what Satan "quoted?"

9. What insight does this give you into the:

a. Cleverness and shrewdness of Satan? (schemes)

b. The importance of you studying your bible?

10. What strikes you about Question #6, above, in regards to Satan's work on you?!

## DAY 5:

1. We'll look at the third temptation of Jesus.

*Matt. 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

2. What is the setting for this temptation?

3. John tells us to watch out for "*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.*" To what does Satan appeal to in this third temptation?

4. What's does Satan want from this third temptation?

5. Why would that be important to him?

*Matt. 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

6. How does Jesus deal with this temptation?

7. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy:

*Deuteronomy 6:13 You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve him, and swear by his name.*

8. What was Satan really after?

9. One of Satan's tactics with us is to discombobulate our priorities. We are to love God first, with all our heart, soul, and mind. Our second priority is to love our neighbor as our self. How was Satan trying to re-arrange Jesus' top priorities?

10. What did he want Jesus to live for instead?

11. The temptations ended, for the moment, right here.

*Matt. 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

12. What followed this challenging time of temptation?

**BONUS:**

