

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 10

(come boldly unto the throne of grace)

(Heb 4:14-6) Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Look with me at our text in Matthew 4:1-11

There is much to teach us in Christ as our example here, much to be taught about our walk with God, walking as our savior walked is important, (1Pe 1:13-16) **Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

But our walk with the Lord can never bring comfort to the soul of a bonified sinner, no one has ever been saved by the teaching of practical Godliness! Only the Gospel message of Christ Jesus, His substitutionary death for a people chosen from the foundation of the world, the pouring out of His precious blood, can bring true peace to a spiritually dead sinner.

The skills God has given me are to bring the Gospel from what ever Scripture is set before us! I could bring out many truths of leaning upon the Scriptures for our answers to men, but that will not save anyone who has had the depth of their sinful condition revealed to them! Only the precious Blood of my Savior can cleans me from my sin!

As a sinner I know how I should walk, the problem is I don't! I want to, I think about it constantly, but I still don't! I need the Gospel, the good news, the message of the One who walked perfectly in all ways, the One who was tempted as I, yet without sin! He is the Good news, He is the message that saves, He is the Word that gives comfort to this one who falls short in all I do!

Notice the order of things. Our Lord was baptized. He was owned to be the Son of God. He was anointed by the Spirit of God. Then He was tempted. As He began to lay the axe to the root of Satan's kingdom; (Mat 3:10), our Lord was tempted by the devil. Here is a fact of life, from which there is no escape in this world – If you are a child of God, if the Spirit of God is in you, you will be tempted of the devil.

Do you not remember the way you thought before God revealed Himself in the Face of His Son, Christ Jesus to you? Considering your will above God's did not bring remorse to your cold dead heart did it? The weakness of your faith did not disturb your false peace did it? Are we not tempted with such things now?

Listen to this word of the Lord; **“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men”** (Mat 16:21-23).

Brother Don Fortner wrote; *“The Temptation of Christ is a subject so deep and mysterious that no sensible man would imagine being able to understand, much less explain the facts that are clearly revealed concerning it. It is a subject shrouded in mystery. In fact, mystery is a vital aspect of all divine truth. Any doctrine that is not mysterious is not divine in its origin. That which God has revealed about himself in Holy Scripture is infinitely beyond human conception and comprehension. The infinite God cannot be comprehended by the puny mind of finite man”*.

I would go as far as to say, this applies to most all of God's word, who can truly grasp the fact that the Son of God was made sin, or that I was made the righteousness of God in Him, yet it is so!

(1Co 13:9-11) For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

No man can understand what occurred in our Savior's heart when He was tempted. Who can explain how sin originated in the sinless heart of Adam, or how the eternal God can be one God in three distinct persons, or how our Savior can be both the omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent God and a man in a physical body that needed both rest and nourishment, and from whom some things are hidden? Yet these things are plainly revealed in the Volume of the Book, let us begin with an acknowledgment of our complete inability to comprehend the things we have before us. But if God Himself would be pleased to teach us His Truths!

A point to consider, the basis of our faith is not our understanding of God's Word, but the Word of God itself. Because the Bible is the Word of God, we recognize that it is infinitely superior to human reason. Therefore, we gladly submit our reason to God's Revelation.

We may not understand clearly; **"we see through a glass, darkly"** But we are certain Our Lord Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, so that he might be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; we also see with certainty, He never succumbed to the temptation – He never sinned.

We can also consider this – Satan is real, and he is against our souls. — **"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil"** (Mat 4:1). Matthew understood that the devil is real, a personal adversary, a mighty foe with whom we must do battle continually.

The fiend of hell is not afraid to assault the very throne of God, or the Son of God! In these eleven verses we are told three times that Satan attacked the Lord of glory.

It was the devil who brought sin into the world in the beginning. It was he who vexed Job, deceived David, and as we just read a moment ago, it was Satan who caused Peter to fall so miserably.

The Word of God calls him a “**murderer**,” a “**liar**,” and a “**roaring lion**” (Joh 8:43-44) **Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it;**

(1Pe 5:8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

The world is ruled by the wicked influence of Satan (Eph 2:1-3) **And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

Unbelieving men and women are taken captive by the devil at his will; **“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”.** (2Ti 2:26).

His goal is the everlasting destruction of our souls. He ever seeks whom he may devour. His malice is unrelenting. His hatred against us never rests.

Since the day man walked this earth, Satan has been trying to destroy and draw into hell those men and women he was created to serve. As it was with our glorious Head, so is it with His people.

Brother Don wrote; *“No sooner is the work of grace wrought in the hearts of God’s elect than all hell is up in arms”*.

We must constantly watch and pray that we be not taken by his devices. His cunning and subtlety are greater than we can imagine. The prince of darkness often transforms himself into an **“angel of light”** and his ministers into **“preachers of righteousness”** (2Co_11:13-14) **For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

Satan is in the world wherever we live. He goes wherever we go. He never tires. He never sleeps. He never quits. If it were possible, he would destroy our souls! For our good we must crucify the flesh and overcome the world; we must **“resist the devil”** (Jas 4:7) **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

We also see in this passage, the fact that the Lord our God rules all things absolutely. We know that God cannot be tempted to do evil and that he will never tempt any man to do evil; **“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”** (Jas 1:13-15).

But everyone who reads the Bible with understanding knows that God rules even in the temptations of his people (Psa 76:10) **Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.**

Neither the fall of Satan nor the temptation and sin of our father Adam took God by surprise.

Notice the language of Mat 4:1. Our Lord Jesus was “**led**”, Mark’s Gospel says “**driveth**” –(Mar_1:12) into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted of the devil. Why? That the word would be fulfilled of our Savior who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He was tempted of the devil because, as a man, He might perform the work of perfect righteousness for us, faithfully doing the will of God in the face of temptation yet without sin, thereby fulfilling all righteousness as our Representative and Mediator.

He had to be tempted, as He entered His public ministry, that He might learn obedience by the temptations He endured. Martin Luther wrote, “*Three things make a preacher: meditation, prayer, and temptation.*” Therefore, our Redeemer was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Our Savior’s temptations were also necessary on our account. “**For in that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted**” (Heb 2:18).

As His temptations were in complete accordance with the will and purpose of our God, so are ours. The Lord our God is in control of our temptations just as fully as He is in control of everything else in this world; (1Co 10:13) **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it;**

(1Th 5:16-24) Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Robert Hawker made the following observation in commenting on our Lord's temptation. — *“What a sweet thought is it, that the Lord Jesus was in all points tempted as his people are, yet without sin! Precious Lord! Was it not intended to prompt thy redeemed to come to thee with more confidence from fellow feeling?”*

Our Lord's also teaches us by example in this passage that the best defense we have in times of temptation is the Word of God. Three times Satan tempted our Lord with great offers that strongly appealed to His human nature. But three times our Lord foiled Satan's temptations by asserting some portion of Holy Scripture as His reason for not doing as the devil suggested. This is just one of many reasons why we ought to make ourselves intimately and constantly familiar with Holy Scripture. It is not enough to have a Bible. Read it! It is not enough to carry a Bible to church. Make yourself familiar with its contents. Seek to understand its doctrine (2Ti 3:16-17) **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

J. C. Ryle wrote, *“Knowledge of the Bible never comes by intuition. It can only be got by hard, regular, daily, attentive, wakeful reading.”*

You cannot fight the good fight of faith if you cannot use the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17) **And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

You cannot walk in the King's highway if you do not walk by the light of His Word, which is **“a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our pathway”** (Psa 119:105).

If we would know the way of salvation, let us seek to know the Word of God. If we would live in this world for the glory of God, let us seek to know his Word. If we would escape the temptations of Satan, let us bury ourselves in the Word of God and the worship of God.

Above all else these eleven verses are written to teach and assure us that we have a great High Priest in heaven who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. The sympathy of the Lord Jesus with us is a truth which ought to be precious to every believer.

Here is a treasury of consolation for tempted souls! We have a great, almighty Friend and Advocate in heaven, who intercedes for us in all our temptations, He is touched with our infirmities, and enters into all our spiritual troubles and fears.

Are you ever tempted by Satan to distrust God's providence? So was Christ!

Are you ever tempted by Satan to presume upon God's promises? So was Christ!

Are you ever tempted by Satan to some act of evil for worldly gain? So was Christ!

Our Lord Jesus Christ is just the Savior that tempted people need! Let us flee to him for help and spread our troubles before him. You will always find that His ear is ready to hear, His heart is ready to feel, and His arm is ready to help. He understands our sorrows, temptations, and troubles!

Again I quote our dear Brother Don Fortner; *"Though he is exalted to heaven, this Man, who is God our Savior, still possesses **"the tongue of the learned"** and knows how **"to speak a word in season to him that is weary"** (Isa 50:4). For this purpose he is wakened every morning throughout the ages of time with the ear of the learned. Yes, our dear Redeemer is a Son who has learned obedience by the things he suffered. He has learned what it is to wrestle with Satan's temptations and assaults. He has learned what it is to endure malicious slander. He has learned what it is to be bereaved of a loved one. He has learned what it is to be betrayed by a friend. He has learned what it is to be made sin! He has learned what it is to have a broken heart. He has learned what it is to be forsaken of God! He has learned what it is to die! And he has learned what it is to be raised from the dead! He is able to comfort and help his tempted people, because God has given him **"the tongue of the learned..."****"to speak a word in season to him that is weary."***

Our Great and Gracious Lord speaks a word in season to our troubled and heavy laden souls; (Mat 11:28-30) **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. How thankful we ought to be to know that He who is God our Savior was once **“led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”**

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”