



Wilderness: The Humility Test

Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; 2:18

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“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Introduction: Have you been tested this week in areas of vulnerability?

Matthew 4:1-3; Deuteronomy 6-8: Israel’s history is the broader context for the testing of the Son of God.

Israel

➤ God calls, “My son, my firstborn” (Exodus 4:22)

➤ Born in the land, but escapes and survives in Egypt

➤ Has a pivotal water experience (Red Sea)

➤ Is tested in the wilderness for 40 years

➤ Tested at the beginning of the conquest of the nations in the land

➤ Failed the wilderness test; wilderness tragedy!

➤ Goal: to know what was in their hearts

Messiah Jesus

➤ God calls, “My beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17)

➤ Born in the land, but escape and survives in Egypt

➤ Has a pivotal water experience (Jordan River)

➤ Is tested in the wilderness for 40 days

➤ Tested at the beginning of the “conquest” of the nations of the earth

➤ Passed the wilderness test; wilderness triumph!

➤ Goal: to know what was in His heart

“And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, **that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart,** whether you would keep His commandments or not....Thus you are to know in your heart **that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.**” (Deuteronomy 8:2, 5)

Matthew 4:3-11: The content of Jesus’ 3 temptations reveals the Devil’s general strategy with us.

1st (Matthew 4:3-4) Misuse our resources to meet physical needs apart from God’s provisions.

2nd (Matthew 4:5-7) Presume upon God’s grace to succeed in our God-given mission.

3rd (Matthew 4:8-10) Rely upon Satan or self as a short-cut to fulfill God’s purposes for our life.

The Significance to Us:

1. What do these temptations tell us about Jesus the Messiah and His heart and character?

2. What do these temptations tell us about how we should respond to our testing/tempting?