

The Son of God Goes into Battle Feb. 29-March 2, 2020

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

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

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "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."

⁷Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

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

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

¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- 1. What's the worst fight you've ever been in?
- 2. Why do you think God allowed/wanted Jesus to be tempted by the Devil? (cf. Heb. 3:14-18; 4:15; Gal. 4:4)
- 3. What two tactics does Satan employ in the first temptation? (What two things is he trying to get Jesus to do?)

- 4. In what way does Satan use those same tactics in your life?
- 5. Can you put v. 4 in your own words?
- 6. Regarding Satan's 2nd temptation, it's been said, "Sometimes the Devil comes with a Bible in his hand." Explain.
- 7. How does Jesus counter Satan's 2nd temptation?
- 8. In light of Satan's 3rd temptation, give an example of something that Satan promises to give you if you serve him instead of God.
- 9. "Owning a Bible is like owning a handgun." Explain.
- 10. Agree/disagree: In Matthew's account, Jesus shows us how to resist/overcome Satan's temptations.
- 11. So, is there any "gospel" in these verses?