



Ready for Battle

**Matthew 4:1-11**

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### Series Summary

We all want our lives to matter. But how do we know if we're doing the right thing? In a world where nothing is guaranteed, nothing is certain, you can build a life that can last. In the Bible, we can find practical guidance for everyday life as learn build a life that will last as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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### Theme Passage

**Matthew 5:16** – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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### Main Text

**Matthew 4:1-11** (ESV) – <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Big Idea – God Allows Times of Testing Not to Break You but Shape You**

## Three Lessons Learned from Jesus

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### Lesson #1 – Triumph Over Times of Testing is Rooted in the Word of God Not the Plan of Man

**Matthew 4:1-4** (ESV) – <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

### Lesson #2 – Strength to Endure Your Trial is Found in the Provision of the Lord Not the Might of Men

**Matthew 4:5-7** (ESV) – <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

### Lesson #3 – Stay the Course in Your Devotion to the Lord...There are no Shortcuts to Finishing Faithfully

**Matthew 4:8-11** (ESV) – <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

## Memory Verse

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**Ephesians 6:11** (ESV) – Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

## Challenge:

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You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group, (2) Participating in a Sunday School class, or (3) Answering the questions that follow.

- How do you prepare your life for the testing and temptation that comes your way?
  
- How would using the Word of God as a defense prevent you from falling victim to the schemes of the enemy?
  
- Do you have specific passages of Scripture that you utilize to defend yourself against temptations? If so, what are they?