

The Safest Place in the World (Jesus and the Tempter, Part 3)

Matthew 4:1-7, Deuteronomy 6:4-19

March 12, 2017

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

6a “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down.

6b For it is written:

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

6c “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.”

(Psalm 91:11-12)

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the

Lord your God to the test.”

Deuteronomy 6:16-17 ¹⁶ Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. ¹⁷ Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees He has given you.

Exodus 17:7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Romans 8:31-32 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Romans 8:31, 38-39 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ... ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Matthew 4:1-7, Deuteronomy 6:4-19
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- Have you ever doubted God's love for you? It's a diabolical question.

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

- The highest point of the temple, about 600 ft. almost 60 stories above the Kidron valley.

6a "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down.

- I would NOT be tempted to do that!
- We know better than to take foolish risks.

6b For it is written:

- The devil can quote Scripture – and twist it.
- One reason there are so many denominations.
- Mormons and JW's. Apostles' Creed, especially Nicene Creed!
- And so it is important to know the Scriptures well, not just a few verses.
- And it is important to rely on the Holy Spirit for interpretation, understanding.
- And it is important to discern with others.

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Satan can't interpret Scripture correctly because he isn't interested in good works. He isn't interested in pleasing God.

**6c “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.”**

(Psalm 91:11-12)

■ Read Psalm 91.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.^[a]

2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

3 Surely he will save you
from the fowler’s snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

5 You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,”
and you make the Most High your dwelling,

10 no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;

12 they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
 13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
 you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
 14 "Because he^[b] loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
 I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;
 I will be with him in trouble,
 I will deliver him and honor him.
 16 With long life I will satisfy him
 and show him my salvation."

- That psalm is always, true. God protects us and delivers us in miraculous ways.
- But we still face trials and troubles.
- Satan twists Scripture to say the faithful life is a painless life.
- If God loves you, then nothing will ever go wrong in your life.
- Now THAT's a temptation I find attractive!

John 16:33 ***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."***

Matthew 16:24 ***Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."***

- The first temptation was to use Spiritual power for selfish gain.
 The second temptation is to doubt that God wills the best for one's life.
- Maslow's pyramid. Safety needs. Security. But spiritual needs are higher.
- 30 years ago I thought the temptation was to put on a show, draw a crowd. But that isn't in the text.
- Look at how Jesus answers this temptation.

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do

not put the Lord your God to the test.”

Deuteronomy 6:16-17 ***16 Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. 17 Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees He has given you.***

- What happened at Massah? Water from rock.

Exodus 17:7 ***And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”***

→ The temptation is to believe that when things aren't going our way, God doesn't care about us. God isn't with us.

Romans 8:31-32 ***What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?***

- Gospel Presentation.

- We put God to the test whenever we do what Satan says.
- We put God to the test whenever we don't do what He says.
- The safest place to be is the center of God's will. Obedience.

- There is one place where God tells us to test Him!

Malachi 3:10 ***Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.***

- Have you ever doubted God's love for you? It's a diabolical question.
- When I was a little boy, ya know the devil 'd call my name.

And I'd say, "Who do, who do ya think you're foolin'?"
I'm a consecrated boy, singin' in the Sunday choir.
My Father loves me. He loves me.
He gets down on His knees and He hugs me.
You know He loves me like a rock!
He rock me like the rock of ages.
He loves me.
He love me, love me, love me, love me!

Romans 8:31, 38-39 *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ... 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*