

THE FIGHTING MESSIAH

- T H E -  
**MESSIAH**

GOSPEL  
of  
MATTHEW



SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Jesus is the Sovereign King who reveals God to us and brings us into the Kingdom of God.**

- **The Hebrews were hoping the Messiah would lead a fight to restore the kingdom of Israel.**
- **Jesus Christ fought to save all who trust in Him by bringing them into the Kingdom of God.**

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."  
Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

**Jesus Christ uses two weapons in His fight against temptation and the darkness of evil: God's Word and the Holy Spirit's power.**

<sup>4:1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "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.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do 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 splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

**Jesus Christ defeated Satan's three common core temptations to do what is evil:**

- **The temptation to satisfy our physical appetites and reject God's Word. (v3-4)**
- **The temptation to seek approval and reject God's love and God's ways. (v5-7)**
- **The temptation to pursue selfish ambitions and reject God's will and God's purpose. (v8-10)**

**Where sinful humanity failed, Jesus Christ prevailed to make a way for a new humanity.**

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—<sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near".... <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matthews 4:12-17, 23 (NIV)

- **By conquering the temptation to do what is evil, Jesus Christ became a light of life to those living in darkness.**
- **Matthew's life is a testimony of "God's gift" given to sinners through Jesus Christ's fight. (See Matthew 9:9-12)**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**Jesus Christ fought to transform the hearts and lives of sinners who trust in Him as the King who saves.**

**The same Holy Spirit who empowered and led Jesus is with those who trust in Jesus as their King who saves.**

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# - T H E - MESSIAH

GOSPEL  
MATTHEW



<sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NIV)

**The same Word of God that Jesus relied on is the same Word of God we can depend upon.**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:12-15 (NIV)

**Jesus defeated every temptation for the right to transform my life and make me a light.**



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

What you choose to fight for reveals what is most important to you. Israel wanted the Messiah to come and fight for their religious and national freedom. Jesus Christ came to fight for something more important—their spiritual freedom.

Jesus fought the power of temptations to conquer the evil that enslaves humanity in the darkness of eternal death. Jesus defeated temptation with the power of God's Spirit and the power of the God's Word. By defeating every temptation, Jesus was given the power and the authority to transform the hearts of sinners through the light of His good news.

Jesus of Nazareth became the King who saves all sinners who trust in Him. Any sinner who trusts in Jesus as his or her King who saves can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of God's word to defeat the temptation to do evil and become a light in the darkness.

**TALK-IT-OVER:**

How does Jesus' approach to temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) inspire and inform our own battles against temptation in everyday life?

Reflecting on Jesus as the "new Adam" who overcame temptation, how does this reshape our understanding of redemption and the possibility of a renewed humanity?

In what ways can we rely on God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit to battle temptations?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:**

Day 1) John 14:8-10

Day 2) John 1:9-13

Day 3) 1 John 3:1-9

Day 4) 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Day 5) 1 Peter 5:6-10

Day 6) 1 John 2:1-8