

Behind Enemy Lines— “The Enemy’s Tempting”

Matthew 4:1 shows us 2 things:

- 1) **The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground, making temptation inevitable.**
- 2) **Jesus was tempted in the same way we are, making him relatable.**

Matthew 4, as it relates to us:

- 1) **We are tempted by Satan (who is subordinate) for evil.**
- 2) **We are tested by God (who is sovereign) for good.**

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Jesus’s victory over temptation by relying on God the Father provides the basis and pattern for our own victory over sin and death.

- ***Temptation #1: Self-Gratification.***
 - We are tempted to fulfill our wants apart from God’s will.
 - Like Jesus, may we trust in the all-satisfying, all-sufficient goodness of the Father.
- ***Temptation #2: Self-Protection.***
 - We are tempted to question God’s presence and manipulate God’s promises.
 - May we rest in the shelter of the Father’s unshakeable security.
- ***Temptation #3: Self-Exaltation.***
 - Like Jesus, we are tempted to assert ourselves in the world while we rob God of His worship.
 - Jesus refused to exchange the end-time exaltation by the Father for a right-now exaltation of a snake.

Application for today:

- 1) We can either retreat from God out of a lack of trust, or we can rely on God out of an abundance of trust.
- 2) Our reliance on God is evidenced by our reliance on spiritual resources opposed to worldly resources.
- 3) Our spiritual resources include: the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of God’s Holy Word.

