ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

MATTHEW 4:1-11 OUR ENEMY

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ 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." ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ 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."

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

THE WAR BEING WAGED

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Craving for Satisfaction

Doubt God's Character Doubt My Identity

James 1:14

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



Matthew 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



THE WEAPONS OF WAR

Test #1 Stones to Bread

The Enemy's Lie

This world can satisfy

The Real Truth

God's Satisfaction > World's

Operation Exodus NYC "Delayed gratification is not denied gratification"

Test #2 Testing God's Power and Goodness

The Enemy's Lie

God isn't trustworthy

The Real Truth

God's goodness is perfect

Test #3 "Worship Me"

The Enemy's Lie

I can fully satisfy

The Real Truth

God alone satisfies

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. - C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses



Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit Scripture Prayer

THE VICTOR OF WAR

Matthew 27:39-40 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! **If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**"



THE VICTOR OF WAR

A Mighty Fortress is Our God, Martin Luther, 1528

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us. The Prince of Darkness grim,— We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, For lo! His doom is sure,— One little word shall fell him.

THE VICTOR OF WAR

(this is the verse after our Enemy's bible quote)

Psalm 91:13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Revelation 20:9-10 but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, ¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

THE SPOILS OF WAR

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

THE SPOILS OF WAR ENJOYING

Hebrews 12:2

...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

We are His Joy

He is our Satisfaction

THE SPOILS OF WAR EXPRESSING

Matthew 28

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

RESOURCES

Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis



Power Encounters, David Powlison

