

Sermon Title:
"A Case Study in Temptation"
Matthew 4

INTRODUCTION:

I. Conditions for temptation vs. 4:1, 2

A. We are not protected by God.

1. Why does God allow us to be tempted?
2. Are we ever led by God to a position where we are tempted?

B. We may be weak physically, spiritually, or emotionally.

II. The Goal of the Tempter

A. He attacks our weakness vs. 3-4

1. Jesus spent 40 days alone in the wilderness in prayer and fasting so
 - a) He was hungry.
 - b) He was weak.
 - c) He was lonely.

2. So Satan recommends that Jesus make bread.

B. He attacks our strength. vs. 5-7

1. Satan now challenges Jesus' theology with Scripture.

2. How does Jesus respond to Satan?

C. He attacks our purpose. vs. 8-11

1. What is Jesus' purpose?

2. Does Satan have authority to give Jesus the world?

III. How Do We Overcome Temptation?

A. Expect to be tempted.

B. Know the scriptures.

C. Worship God.

D. Ask Jesus to help you.

E. Pray "lead me not into temptation."

F. Believe that God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

G. "Resist the devil."

CONCLUSION: