

**The Age of Heroes**  
**Jesus: Savior and Lord**  
**06/24/2018**  
**Sunday AM**

**Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11**

**Introduction**

- Last week we spoke of **Elijah: Giving Up**.
- Even when life throws everything at us, we still must find a way to persevere.
- If we will surrender our lives and situations to the Lord, He promises to see us through.
- We have discussed Moses, David, and Elijah over the past three weeks.
- Each are heroes, however they all had weaknesses that we learned from too.
- This morning we are going to finish this series with **Jesus: Savior and Lord**.
- Jesus prevailed where the others failed, and He taught us how to do it too.

**Matthew 4:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert 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 does 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.

- V. 1 – “Then” is making reference to the proceeding verses which is the end of **Matthew 3**.
- In that passage, Jesus had just been baptized by John the Baptist and the Holy Spirit descended on Him.
- Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him, and “THEN” He was led by the Spirit into the desert.
- **Why did the Spirit lead Him into the desert?** To be tempted by the devil whose name means “accuser.”
- V. 2 – Jesus had been without food for 40 whole days and he was very weak physically.
- When we are weak, expect Satan to attack the hardest.
- V. 3 – Satan knew that Jesus was physically weak and hungry so he tempted Jesus with food.
- Look deeper than that though, Satan said, “**If** you are the Son of God...”
- Satan had no doubt that Jesus was the Son of God and had the power to do what was asked.
- What he was tempting Jesus with was Jesus’ own flesh.
- Satan wanted Jesus to use His power for selfish reasons, forgetting about anyone else.
- V. 4 – Jesus responded by quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3**. Jesus turned a physical issue into a spiritual one.
- Jesus placed a higher importance on being “well fed” spiritually rather than just physically.
- Vv.5-6 – Not being successful the first time, Satan decides to try to tempt Jesus again.
- Satan got more aggressive this time because he actually used Scripture himself to tempt Christ.
- Satan quoted words from **Psalms 91:11-12**. He wanted Jesus to test God the Father’s promise.
- V. 7 – Jesus responded by quoting a verse of His own from **Deuteronomy 6:16**.
- God is not to be tested, He is to be TRUSTED, and that is what Satan was trying to undermine here.
- Be very careful, Satan and others, misuse Scripture to their advantage all the time in today’s world.
- Vv. 8-9 – In these verses Satan was tempting Jesus to take a short cut and bypass the cross.
- Satan was offering Jesus something that was already His. Jesus never stopped being God.

- What Satan did not understand is that Jesus “humbled himself” as **Philippians 2:5-8** tells us.
  - Satan was attempting to offer Jesus worldly power as long as He would bow down to him.
  - V. 10 – Jesus had enough at this point and He commanded Satan, “Away from me, Satan!”
  - Jesus went on to quote **Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 13**. God is the only one worthy of our worship and service.
  - V. 11 – Satan’s plan to bring Jesus down had failed.
  - Satan had to obey Jesus’ command to leave because Christ is more superior than him.
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- This passage of Scripture can speak volumes to us today in how we deal with temptations and trials.
  - Jesus provided us with the perfect example of what to do in situations like this.
    1. **He did not allow “self” to get in the way.**
    2. **He relied on God’s Word as the source of truth and strength.**
    3. **He never lost faith in God the Father.**
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- Jesus did not rely on his deity to make it through this temptation.
  - You and I have all of the necessary abilities to weather a temptation like this ourselves.
  - It requires that we meditate on God’s Word to the extent that we “hide it in our hearts.”
  - We must be able to keep our eyes and focus on God and not the world, even though that is tough to do.
  - Our faith in God should never waver, because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
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- If you are trying to fight life’s battles alone, you will find yourself in desperate situations.
  - As we have learned from Moses, David, and Elijah we all have strengths and weakness.
  - However, Christ showed us the perfect way and because of His sinless sacrifice on the cross we too have the tool set to live our lives in total surrender.
  - If we will strive everyday of our lives to live in that total surrender, trials, tribulations, and temptations will be nothing more than an afterthought.
  - Don’t get caught by surprise, be prepared for those spiritual battles that may come your way.

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

### **Who’s Who in the Bible**

Thomas