

Sacred Space Temptation

The Gospel of Matthew Series

PREPARATION

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" Matthew 26:41

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. Matthew 6:13

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

¹ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8

⁷ **We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap. The trap is broken, and we are free!** ⁸ **Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.** Psalms 124

CONFESSION

¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.

¹⁵ **These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.** James 1

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION — Matthew 4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. ² For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

³ During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do 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, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, ⁶ and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

PRACTICE: IN SOLITUDE OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	How do I relate to this?
Respond	What is my next step of obedience?
Rest	Receive God's healing and renewal.

⁸ Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

¹⁰ "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

ANCHORING PRAYER *"Heavenly Father, I serve only You."*

REVIEW OF THE HEART

- *What temptation am I most susceptible to?*
- *What "way of escape" does God provide for me?*

WISDOM

The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. Luke 8:13

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. James 1

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

"To realize God's presence is the one sovereign remedy against temptation."

—Francois Fenelon

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church & One Another*

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, our spirits are willing but our bodies are weak! The temptations in our lives are no different from what others experience, and because You are faithful You will not allow the temptation to be more than we can stand. But when we are tempted, show us the way out so that we will be able to endure it. Amen.

Adapted from Matthew 26:41 and 1 Corinthians 10:13

SACRED SPACE EVERY DAY

Become still and quiet before God.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the Sacred Space Community.

Minister from a listening heart.