



Trust God or Take Control?

Pastor Bill West
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Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **(Matthew 4:1-4)**

Real Needs Happen

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

(Matthew 4:1-2)

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? **(Matthew 6:25-27)**

Do not be anxious about anything... **(Philippians 4:6a)**

Potential Solutions Arise

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

(Matthew 4:2-3)

Remember: Temptation is never about just one thing!

Reflect: A Study on Temptation!!

Part Two: Trust God or Take Control?

Decisions Have to Be Made

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

(Matthew 4:3-4)

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

(Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. ***(Deuteronomy 8:17-18)***

Give us this day our daily bread. ***(Matthew 6:11)***

Bottom Line:

Temptation is Always a Test of Your Trust in God!

Question for This Day:

Will I Trust God or Will I Take Control?

Reflect: A Study on Temptation!!

Part Two: Trust God or Take Control?

1. Has there been something that you waited for a long time? How did it feel to have to wait?
2. **Read Matthew 4:1-4:** What was behind the devil's request? Why would it have been a sin for Jesus to turn the rocks into bread? What's at stake for Jesus and what's at stake for us?
3. **Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3:** What did God intend to teach the Israelites when He provided manna for them in the wilderness?
4. Why is it difficult to wait on God to provide, instead of taking things into your own hands?
5. When in your life have you met a legitimate need in an improper way? What were the results?
6. Have you ever had a need that you were tempted to take into your own hands, but instead you chose to wait on God? How did God provide?
7. In what area of your life do you face the most temptation to meet a legitimate need in an irresponsible way?
8. **Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18:** Why is it more tempting to act independently of God when times are good? How can you continue to remind yourself of your dependence on God?
9. Bill said Temptation is Always a Test of your Faith? Agree or disagree? Why?
10. **Read Matthew 6:11:** How does this apply to your life at this moment?
11. Pray for each other.

Reflect: A Study on Temptation!!

Part Two: Trust God or Take Control?