



**“<sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone.””**”

Grammatically written in the perfect passive tense – “it stands written” – literally means ‘abiding value’; ‘enduring’

**John 4:34** – “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.”

**Illustration** – Jesus didn’t reach into His satchel and pull out a scroll. His sword was out of its sheath. He was armed and ready!

There is nothing in Jesus in which the devil can hook a temptation and make it successful.

All temptation that comes at Jesus comes from the outside.

None of the temptation comes from the inside.

He immediately fights fire with fire.

Jesus does not let the deadly temptation percolate in His heart.

**Application** – Great lessons for us in terms of patience with God, trusting in God and turning away from the temptations of self- will to trusting in the will of God as revealed in the pages of Scripture.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Great Temptation, ...**

**II. Discontentment 4:5-8**

Point – Going after the physical (hunger) didn’t work.

→ So, Satan goes after the material.

Proof – “<sup>5</sup>And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.”

Pause for a moment ... Luke, the researcher ... where did he get this information? Where did Matthew (one of the Twelve) get this? Where did Mark (who followed Peter).

There is no Old Testament parallel. There is no Old Testament prophecy. Jesus was by Himself. The source is Jesus. He probably told his disciples (including Peter and Matthew). Perhaps He told His mother Mary who told Luke (or from Matthew or Peter).

Back to Luke's account → Luke's point here is not how this happened. Luke's point is what happened.

If this was a vision, we can be assured that this temptation was as real and as impactful to Christ, beyond what you and I can imagine, unimaginably so, with every ounce of literalness.

**“And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.’”**

→ In the original language the “**You**” and “**me**” are emphatic

Satan is a liar – he presents a mixture of truth and error. It is true that the world has been handed over to him, temporarily of course. **1 John 5:19** – “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.” God in His economy and sovereignty allows Satan to rule over the world for a certain portion of time.

But Satan does not give it to whomever he wishes. He gives it, when he can, at the permission of God.

**“<sup>7</sup>Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.”**

- from the original Greek word – proskunew – which means ‘*bow down*’; ‘fall face down in front of someone’; ‘*worship, venerate, do obeisance to*’

To worship anything or anyone else ... to serve anything or anyone else...to love anything or anyone else above God is idolatry.

“if” – 3<sup>rd</sup> class condition – in other words it is subjective -  
(remember different than 1<sup>st</sup> class condition used in v. 3)

In Jesus’ physically weakened state, the devil is going after His satisfaction, His contentment.

**“<sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”**

**Deut 6:13** – “You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him, and swear by His name.”

**Deut 10:20** – “You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.”

His time now is a cross, not a crown.

The crown will come later. He will rule this world with a rod of iron (Psa 2), but the timing must be right.

**John 18:36** – “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

**Application**– The more you have, the less you are **content**. If true, we live in one of the most **discontented** countries ... at one of the most **discontented** times... ever in the history of the world.

Complaints abound in the workforce, neighborhood, golf course, and shopping mall. In fact, all media, both main stream media and alternate media, are sustained by **discontentment**.

- We buy things and watch things to fill the void.
- We opine based on **discontentment**.

How about the church? “**The East Valley Shuffle** - the seemingly continuous drift of evangelicals here in the East Valley from church to church.

What feeds this? **Discontentment**.

Simply stated, we live in a culture diseased with discontentment.

The good news is God gives us **contentment**.

**Phil 4:11** – “Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be **content** in whatever circumstances I am.”

**2 Cor 9:8** – “God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;”

**Application - Heb 13:5** – “Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,’”

17<sup>th</sup> century English Puritan – “*Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.*”

We now come to the third temptation. But first ... you may have noticed Matthew and Luke have the last 2 temptations in different order ... What’s up?

Matthew has the time marker “then” (chronological) so we understand that Luke lists the last two in some kind of logical order, rather than chronological order → Answer why → Luke has his focus on the Temple and the Test.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Great Temptation, ...**

**III. Misapplication 4:9-12**

Point – Even the Devil can quote Scripture. Brent brought this out in his excellent testimony at Men’s Breakfast yesterday ☺

Proof – “<sup>9</sup>And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here;’”

According to the 1<sup>st</sup> century historian Josephus, the drop on the southeast corner down into the Kidron Valley was about 450 ft.

“<sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You,’ <sup>11</sup>and, ‘On *their* hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’”

Satan is perverting a passage that is about trusting God and twisting it into testing God

**Psa 91:11-12** – “For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup>They will bear you up in their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

**J.C. Ryle** – “*Since Satan cannot destroy the gospel, he has too often neutralized its usefulness by addition, subtraction, or substitution.*” → In this case → Subtraction!

**Illustration** – We have seen this tactic before – **Gen 3:1-5**

→ **Satan** tempting **Eve** in the Garden of Eden

- 1) Adds to God’s prohibition + “any”
  - 2) Minimizes God’s provision “~~freely~~”
  - 3) Adds to God’s prohibition + “touching”
  - 4) Minimizes God’s provision “surely” vs. “lest”
- Flat out contradicts a clear statement of the Word of God!

The Deceiver omits → “**in all your ways**”

The way of Christ was the **Via Dolorosa**, the way of sorrows. His path included suffering and death.

It was for Christ. It may also be so for you.

That is why Satan omitted that – trying to get Him off the narrow path and onto the broad path.

That is our temptation as well.

But here is the real rub!

“<sup>12</sup>**And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘It is said, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’**”

It is the same Greek root word translated as “tempted” and “temptation” throughout – translated here as **test**.

**1 Cor 10:9** – “Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.”

For the third time, Jesus answers from **Deut 6-10**:

**Deut 6:16** – “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.”

→ **Turn to: Exod 17:1-7**

In His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, Jesus had certainly been remembering His nation of Israel and her wandering in the wilderness for 40 years.

Jesus is not applying **Deut 6:16** to Satan.  
He is applying it to Himself! Jesus is saying to Satan: God is not the one under test here. I am!

God is not a genie who appears when we rub his lamp.  
The Creator of the universe is not a butler who jumps to attention when we snap our fingers.

3 Great Temptations: Impatience, Discontentment, and Misapplication

The antidotes! **Patience, Contentment, Precision**

**Illustration** – The precision of a **brain surgeon** with the knife, the precision of a **highway worker** with the line, the precision of a **chef** with the ingredients, the precision of a boy/girl trusting in Christ who seeks to walk the narrow path.

**Application** – Exhortation to precision! **2 Tim 2:15** – “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who

does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”

Epilogue to the temptation...

“<sup>13a</sup>**And when the devil had finished every temptation,**”

This is the same root Greek word as used in the words of Christ “It is finished!” – συντελέω – but the Greek word here has an intensifying preposition prefix.

**G. Campbell Morgan** – *“Every avenue of attack he had moved along, every means of reaching Christ he had employed; he had completed every temptation. There was nothing else he could do. Hell had exhausted itself.”*

“<sup>13b</sup>**he departed from Him until an opportune time.**”

The assault of satanic temptations will continue throughout Jesus’ ministry culminating in Gethsemane.

**12:50** – “I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!”

**22:28** – “you are those who have stood by Me in My trials” (same word!) → Jesus was by Himself in His temptation. This refers to the three years of attacks that followed the man Jesus after this 40 days assault.

**Application**– Beloved, there is no freedom from temptation in this life, on this side of glory.

There wasn’t for Jesus and there isn’t for us.

When Scripture becomes the satisfying authoritative antidote to temptation, the Tempter moves on.
---

**CONCLUSION**