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## 2 Scripture

- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. (Matthew 4:1–2 NIV)
- The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” (Matthew 4:3 NIV)
- Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4 NIV)

## 3 Scripture

- Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down.” (Matthew 4:5 NIV)
- 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.’” (Matthew 4:6 NIV)
- Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:7 NIV)

## 4 Scripture

- Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” (Matthew 4:8–9 NIV)
- Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” (Matthew 4:10 NIV)
- Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matthew 4:11 NIV)

## 5 Click

- Click, . . . if there’s any more pervasive and universal sound in the 21st century, it’s hard to know what it would be.
- The clicking of a mouse and the tapping of the touch screen are the soundtracks of our daily lives.
- We get everything with a click—from the news, to ordering pizza, to checking in with distant friends on Facebook®.

## 6 Click

- But while the Web has brought us ease of communication, it’s also shouldered us with the burden of distraction.
- You can’t read an online article, for example, without being bombarded with ads or, perhaps even worse, temptations to click on another article that may take you down a rabbit trail you never intended to follow.

## 7 Clickbait

- Savvy Internet users call this “clickbait,” which refers to any ad or link with a shocking, salacious or teasing headline and/or photo designed to tempt your curiosity and suck you in.

- The headline usually doesn't deliver what it offers, and your "click" usually results in a bevy of more ads and more clicks.

## 8 Clickbait

- Below are some examples of clickbait you might see on the Internet:
  - "Brady Bunch Secrets That Will Leave You Speechless."
  - "American Residents Born Between 1936 and 1966 Are in for a ..."
  - "What 'Star Trek' Cast Looks Like Now Is Jaw-Dropping."
  - "21 Facts About the Amish Most People Don't Know."
- Click on any of those and you've burned an hour of time without even realizing it.

## 9 Clickbait

- It's no wonder, then, that the devil himself is a master of clickbait.
- He's always trying to get people distracted from what really important, he doesn't deliver on what he promises and he plays havoc with people who are driven by emotion rather than by faith.
- Biblically speaking, there's no greater example of how his clickbait strategy works than the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.

## 10 Clickbait

- Matthew sets the scene of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, which also reflects the temptation of Israel in the desert.
- The devil shows up to offer Jesus some salacious shortcuts for his ministry, beginning each one with "If you are the Son of God."
- The real question is whether Jesus will click on any of the devil's bait.

## 11 Clickbait #1

- The shocking dietary revolution that will change your life!
  - The devil's first piece of clickbait is to get Jesus to use his power to transform stones into bread (vv. 3-4).
  - That must have been a real temptation for one who was "famished" after 40 days without food, but it's an even bigger temptation when put into context.

## 12 Clickbait #1

- Of course, we know that Jesus was quite capable of pulling off this miraculous recipe there in the desert.
  - He would turn water into wine; he could certainly turn stones into bread.

- All four gospels report that he could feed 5,000-plus people with just five loaves of bread and two fish, which was a sign of God's provision throughout his ministry.

### 13 Clickbait #1

- As you all know, when Jesus responded to Satan, He quoted Moses. Below is the full text.
- 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 8:3 NIV)
- In other words, God taught Israel obedience by placing them into situations of total dependency, where they would have to submit to God's will out of their desperate need.

### 14 Clickbait #1

- The point here is that God disciplines His children—those He loves so that they will be entirely dependent on Him where they may become willing and obedient to His will and all His ways.
- Since Jesus is God's Son, He too will undergo disciplined, but unlike Israel He will submit to God's word and not complain, grumble, or be stubborn.
- In other words, He will succeed where Adam and the children of Israel failed.

### 15 Clickbait #2

- Man jumps from incredible height with no parachute. You won't believe what happens next!
  - The devil's second clickbait temptation was to get a kind of YouTube video of Jesus jumping off the pinnacle of the temple into the Kidron Valley with no net and no chute (v. 6).
  - The fall would have meant certain death, but the devil was certain that Jesus could land unscathed.
  - No doubt, such a video would have gone viral instantly and ensured Jesus' celebrity status among all the people.

### 16 Clickbait #2

- The devil even tries to bait Jesus by using Scripture, quoting Psalm 91:11-12 to pump up the fact that God would provide an angelic safety net for the jump:
  - For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone (NIV).
  - But, like a lot of clickbait of the semi-religious variety, the devil uses Scripture out of context.

### 17 Clickbait #2

- However, Psalm 91:9-10 says that God's protection is for circumstances that befall his people and not for those who stupidly test God by taking foolish risks.

- In response to the devil's clickbait, Jesus cites Deuteronomy 6:16 which refers to Israel's testing of God in the wilderness by complaining about their lack of water: "Do not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah."

#### 18 Clickbait #2

- Jesus as the true Son of God wasn't going to allow himself to act presumptuously and foolishly take God's grace for granted.
- As the Scripture says in the next two verses . . .
  - Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. (Deuteronomy 6:17 NIV)
  - Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you . . . (Deuteronomy 6:18 NIV)

#### 19 Clickbait #2

- We also put God to the test when we make God our servant and not the other way around.
  - We make our plans and expect God to bless them.
  - We engage in risky behavior and expect God to protect us.
  - We bend Scripture to suit our purposes and agenda.

#### 20 Clickbait #3

- The secret to world domination. It's easier than you think!
  - Satan knew that Jesus was destined to rule the nations, so what he was really tempting Jesus with was glory and splendor without having to obey God.
  - All Jesus had to do was change his loyalties and everything would be His.

#### 21 Clickbait #3

- However, there are some problems with this offer.
  - Satan's kingdom is a kingdom of darkness (deception) where God's kingdom is a kingdom of light (truth).
  - The devil's kingdom is all about domineering authority where God's kingdom is about servanthood.
  - The evil one's kingdom is about coercion, violence and bondage where God's kingdom is about peace.

#### 22 Clickbait #3

- There's more . . .
  - The devil's kingdom is about the "pleasure principle" where God's kingdom is about holiness and right living.
  - The devil's kingdom is a culture of death where God's kingdom is a culture of life.

- No wonder Jesus said to Satan, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10 NIV)

### 23 Important Point

- As soon as Jesus was baptized by John, the Spirit of God immediately drove Him into the wilderness to be tested by the devil.
- Once tested Jesus then began His ministry with power!
- I'm not sure if you realize this, but God tests everyone—especially before He gives them a promotion, fresh anointing, or new calling.
- You see, before God can give someone something very powerful they have to show that they have the character to carry and shoulder that responsibility or it may destroy them.

### 24 The Testing

- Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Psalms 139:23 NIV)
- The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart. (Proverbs 17:3 NIV)
- The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives. (Proverbs 27:21 NIV)
- But, O LORD Almighty, you who judge righteously and test the heart and mind, (Jeremiah 11:20 NIV)

### 25 The Testing

- Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" (Genesis 22:1 NIV)
- "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." (Genesis 22:2 NIV)
- Once God saw Abraham faith, He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." (Genesis 22:12 NIV)

### 26 The Testing

- . . . you must not listen to the words of that [false] prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:3 NIV)
- I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did. (Judges 2:22 NIV)

### 27 Testing in the New Testament

- Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. (Luke 8:13 NIV)
- They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. (1 Timothy 3:10 NIV)
- Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. (Romans 16:10 NIV)

- On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. (1 Thessalonians 2:4 NIV)

## 28 **The Testing**

- Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 NIV)

## 29 **Importance of choices**

- God's eye is always upon us to see if we are ready for more responsibly and position in His kingdom.
- He watches us when we go through valleys and He watches us when we're on the mountain top.
- The choices we make during those times and those times in between tells a lot about our character and maturity.
- So then, we should always remember that God is watching.

## 30 **Cheez-It commercial**

## 31 **Noble Purposes**

- In one of his epistles to Timothy, the Apostle Paul told him that . . .
  - In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. (2 Timothy 2:20 NIV)
  - If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (2 Timothy 2:21 NIV)

## 32 **Conclusion**

- The bottomline of all of this is that when we make good choices we not only show our character and maturity, but we also . . .
  - Increase the activity of God's angels in our life,
  - Anointing of God's Spirit for effective ministry, and
  - Answered prayer.
- So then, remember that all our choices are important.
- Resist the devil's clickbait, submit to God, and all things become possible for those who believe.