

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF: IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING!

GETTING THROUGH THE TOUGH STUFF OF TEMPTATION

MATTHEW 4:1-11



The Heart of the Matter

Although Christ's life was marked by trials, He never succumbed to temptation. At each pressure point, He turned to His Father and to God's Word for strength to pass all of life's tests. With Christ accompanying us on life's journey, things that others might interpret as a tragedy or seduction to evil take on a different appearance. Both by His example and through His power, we, too, can get through the tough stuff of temptation.



Discovering the Way

1. Christ's Encounter with the Tempter (Matthew 4:1-2)

At the very beginning of Jesus's public ministry, Satan himself came to tempt Jesus at a moment of physical weakness.

2. Christ's Temptations (Matthew 4:3-10)

The first temptation was of a personal nature (Matthew 4:3-4). The second was of a public nature (4:5-7). The third temptation was of a power nature (4:8-10). In each case, Christ responded with God's Word.

3. The Outcome of the Temptations (Matthew 4:11)

After Christ resisted Satan's temptations, the devil departed to wait for a more opportune time.



Starting Your Journey

When temptation crosses our paths, we should remember three simple but practical principles. First, don't be alarmed — *expect it*. Second, don't be blind — *detect it*. Third, don't be clever — *reject it*. Jesus Christ, being fully human, understands and sympathizes with our weakness (Hebrews 4:14-16). And being fully God, He can share His power to overcome.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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