



Matthew 4:1-11

New Year –New Mindset

Shedding the...

...Perspective Trap

...in 2017

Matthew 4:1-11 (KJV) ¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

The Perspective Trap

Satan Knows that God Seeks to...

- **Use Us**
- **Empower Us**
- **Keep Our Eyes on Him**

So in Order to Stop Us...

- ...Satan Uses Our Flesh**
- ...to Set a Trap**
- ...Involving Our Perspective**

Short...

...Sweet

...To

...The

...Point

Short...

...Sweet

...To

...The

...Point

The Trap Occurs...

...When We Get Eyes

- **Off God**
- **Onto Self**
- **Out of Perspective**

The Trap

The Door

The Trap is Usually Set at the Door of Opportunity

- **Door**
 - **Self- Awareness** (*Where I'm At*)
 - **Self- Identity** (*Who I Am*)
 - **Self- Assessment** (*What I am to Do*)
- **Disrupt** – *the power of God flowing thru our lives*
- **Drain** – *our faith*
- **Deteriorate** – *our opportunity*

Jesus is Our Example...

...Under Pressure of the Perspective Trap

Direct Confrontation with the Devil...

- alone in the wilderness
- harsh circumstances, Jesus won
- entry points, our “Achilles’ heel”.
- exposes our vulnerabilities,
- else they won’t be very much of a temptation.

These are the same vulnerable areas we need to take heed to

Remember *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15*



Jesus is Our Example...

...Under Pressure of the Perspective Trap

Heaven Opens. Spirit descends like a dove- The Father speaks

"This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

- **No Ministry or Miracle.**
- **Yet He receives affirmation he is deeply loved.**
- **Immediately –Mark says Driven by into Wilderness.**

The devil Came with Three Powerful Temptations,

...Hitting At His Identity Before God

...throws the same temptations at us

He said to Jesus: "If you are the Son of God..."



Lord Help Me...
...Get Out of My
...Perspective Trap

Trap #1: You Are “What You Do” (3)

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DO (Performance Trap)

- The devil would like to you think that your value is in what you do.

Jesus had not yet begun His ministry at this point.

- He had nothing to show. (lowly carpenter)
- For 30 years, He had done ‘nothing’ great.
- No one has yet to believe him?

Our culture asks the same question.

- Show me what you’ve achieved?
- What can you do?

We See Ourselves as Worthwhile Only IF...

- You don’t have to prove anything.
- You are already deeply loved and highly favored in God’s eyes.

Trap #2: You Are “*What Others Think*” (6)

YOU ARE WHAT OTHERS THINK (Popularity Trap)

- Are you affected by what others think?

Throw Yourself down from highest spot of temple so people believe

- He was an unknown. How could he think he had worth ?
- He would so important that even angels will come and save him.
 - We place a high premium what other people think of us
 - What really matters - Who I am in Christ.
 - Do your best to please God, not men.

True freedom comes when you don't need to be big in other's eyes.

- Rest in How God thinks of You -
- Meditate Upon It Again And Again.

Trap #3: You Are “*What You Have*” (8-9)

YOU ARE WHAT YOU HAVE (Possession Trap)

Jesus was taken to see all the magnificence of the earth.

- You look believe what you have defines you.**

Our culture measures our success by WHAT YOU OWN.

- We begin to compare –most money, nicest house?**
- Our sense of worth is tied to our possessing these things.**
- Nothing wrong with having things. But they don’t define us.**

Jesus sees himself as the Son immensely loved by his Father and found his personal fulfilment in hearing his Father say:

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

We Can Choose to Do the Same Today

- **Rest** - *in the love of the Father*
- **Reliable** - *as the true anchor for who we are.*
- **Relationship** - *your relationship with God your father*
- **Repeat** - *Meditate on this truth all the time, / find Peace*

Don't be too caught up by WHAT YOU DO (performance), on WHAT OTHERS THINK (popularity), or WHAT YOU HAVE (possessions).

- **Be Confident of WHO you are in Christ.**

Know that you are Deeply Loved, Highly Favoured and Blessed.

