

Introduction:

Matthew 4:1 (ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:2 (ESV) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Matthew 4:3 (ESV) And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

In Matthew 4:4 Jesus is quoting from the scriptures that are found in Deuteronomy 8

Deuteronomy 8:1 (ESV) "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:4 (ESV) Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

What we want to understand is the reasons why Jesus quoted the portion of Scripture that He does and what this says about Jesus.

All too often people just make the general application that Jesus used the scriptures as the means of dealing with temptation.

While that is a true and valid application, there is so much more to learn from this verse than simply using scripture to combat the wiles of the Evil one.

Why did Jesus quote this particular verse?

Why was it such a help to Jesus?

What does it teach us about the nature of the temptation that He was facing?

Theme: The lessons to be learned from the 8 points of connection between Jesus' being tempted in the wilderness and the Israelites being tested in the wilderness.

I. **The first point of connection between these two passages is the leading of God.**

A. In Matthew we find that Jesus was being led by God.

Matthew 4:1 (ESV) Then Jesus **was led up by the Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

B. In Deuteronomy we learn that the Israelites were being led by God.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember the whole way **that the Lord your God has led** you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not

C. God was behind the situation that they were encountering.

Jesus was led by God into the situation in which He was in.

The Israelites were led into the situation in which Jesus was in.

We are led by God into similar situations that they were in.

II. **The second point of connection between these two passages is the location in which they occurred.**

A. Jesus was led into the wilderness.

Matthew 4:1 (ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit **into the wilderness** to be tempted by the devil

B. The Israelites were also led into the wilderness

Exodus 13:18 (ESV) But God led the people around **by the way of the wilderness** toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

III. **The third point of connection between these two passages is the number 40.**

- A. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.

Matthew 4:2 (ESV) And after fasting **forty days** and **forty nights**, he was hungry.

- B. The Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these **forty years** in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

IV. The fourth point of connection between these passages is the hunger that was experienced.

- A. Jesus was hungry.

Matthew 4:2 (ESV) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, **he was hungry**.

- B. The Israelites experienced hunger.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) And he humbled you and **let you hunger** and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

V. The fifth point of connection between these two passages is the stated purpose or reason for God leading both Jesus and the Israelites into the wilderness.

- A. God led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1 (ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil**.

1. God does not tempt anyone.

James 1:13 (ESV) Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

2. However, God does lead people into situations in which Satan is going to tempt individuals.

Matthew 6:9 (ESV) Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Matthew 6:13 (ESV) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- B. God led the Israelites in the wilderness to be tested by God.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember **the whole way that the Lord your God has led** you these forty years **in the wilderness**, that he might humble you, **testing you to know what was in your heart**, whether you would keep his commandments or not

- C. Test and temptation in Greek are the same word.

1. God tests and Satan tempts.
2. The difference between a temptation and a test is not the circumstances as evidenced in our text.
3. The difference is the desired outcome of Satan as opposed to the desired outcome by God.
 - a. Satan wants us to sin. He wants us to fail. He wants to do us spiritual harm. - he wants to tear us down and destroy us.
 - b. God wants us to learn and profit from the test. He wants our spiritual good. He wants to build us up and establish us in our faith.

Deuteronomy 8:16 (ESV) who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you **and test you, to do you good in the end.**

- VI. **The sixth point of connection between these two passages is the issue of humility.**

- A. God is testing the Israelis by seeking to develop humility within them in keeping God's will.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (ESV) And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, **that he might humble you**, testing you to know what was in your heart, **whether you would keep his commandments or not**

- B. Satan is tempting Jesus to forsake His humility and to show forth arrogance and to violate God's will.

Matthew 4:3 (ESV) And the tempter came and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.**"

- C. Satan is not tempting Jesus to prove His deity
- D. Satan us tempting Jesus to exercise His deity in order to fulfil His human needs.
- E. He is tempting Jesus not to live as a man but to live as God.
- F. God's intention is for Jesus to exercise humility and to accept the will of God and to live as a man.

Philippians 2:3 (ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, **but in humility** count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:4 (ESV) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:5 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:6 (ESV) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:7 (ESV) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 (ESV) And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Galatians 4:4 (ESV) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

Galatians 4:5 (ESV) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Hebrews 10:5 (ESV) Consequently, **when Christ came into the world**, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, **but a body have you prepared for me**;

Hebrews 10:6 (ESV) in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Hebrews 10:7 (ESV) Then I said, '**Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.**' "

G. Here the informing theology of God humbling them is very instructive to understand the nature of the temptation that Jesus is facing.

1. The Israelites thought they deserved better than this.
2. The Israelites grumbled and complained and wanted take matters into their own hands.
3. Certainly the Son of God deserved better than this!
4. Jesus was tempted to use His powers to meet His own needs in a way that violated His role in becoming a man.
5. No other human being would be able to turn stones into bread to meet his own needs and therefore, neither should He

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) But he answered, "It is written, " '**Man** shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

VII. The seventh point of connection two passages is the emphasis upon the word of God.

A. In Matthew Jesus refers to God's word.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) But **he answered, "It is written,** " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

B. In Deuteronomy Moses refers to God's command.

Deuteronomy 8:1 (ESV) "**The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do**, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.

VIII. **The eighth point of connection between these two passage is the stated truth that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”**

- A. Jesus states the truth of God as revealed in the book of Deuteronomy.

Matthew 4:4 (ESV) But he answered, “It is written, “ **‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”**

- B. Deuteronomy is the place where God reveals this truth

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that **man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

- C. The analogy is between the physical bread and the word of God which is the spiritual bread.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by **bread alone**, but man lives **by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

- D. Physical bread is necessary for physical life. Spiritual bread is necessary for Spiritual life.

Job 23:12 (KJV 1900) Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; **I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.**

IX. **Applications and Concluding Remarks.**