Matthew 4:1-11 - Notes

The temptation

Jesus was isolated – may have felt vulnerable – lonely

(Sound familiar)

Didn’t have access to people, things, life

(Sound familiar)

Was tempted, ridiculed, prompted to take action that would have harmed Him and others

(Sound familiar)

Looking at lockdown

Back to the desert.

Jesus was hungry some would argue borderline starving, he was approached by the tempter after 40 days fasting!

And what I find interesting in the passage is the fact that maybe intentionally or not, maybe it’s a slip, but the tempter seems to respect Jesus sovereignty, let me explain.

1/ “tell the stones to become bread”, you see for me Manna is a proven miracle that feeds the hungry, During Moses times in Exodus 16, so if Moses can help feed so many why does Jesus have to make bread? Because the tempter realises that Jesus could have anything he wants…KFC, MCD…and then we know that Jesus’ come back is awesome from Deut 8:3

2/ Then Jesus was taken to the highest point of the Holy city (The Highest point), not just a part of, not just close to, not just a few floors up or on a balcony , not even to a mountainside but the highest point, the vantage point, the tempter knew he had to show so much to try and get his way, to try and lure Jesus in, but even showing everything before trying to get Jesus to fall, he couldn’t, I can almost picture Jesus looking down and seeing life and townships and beauty and gaining inner strength to fight against temptation.

And finally 3/ the highest mountain, this is where the tempter knows it’s all or nothing, this is where he tries to flex his scrawny little muscles and show real intent, he shows Jesus everything, now if you have been bothered enough to follow Jesus into the desert, wait for him to be at the lowest point and then tempt him several times, the tempter knows that Jesus is special, for a normal person the temptation of being president, or king or chief would have been enough, even money would convince many, but the tempter chose to show Jesus “All the kingdoms” and to no avail.

Why did the tempter have to offer so much?

Can this lesson help us?

Just over a year ago this passage would have been a little harder to relate to, however with what we have all been through since last March and are indeed going through.

1/ Jesus relied on scripture, if Jesus quotes scripture to gain strength and help deal with life’s temptations, then I am sure we can to for example “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” ([Psalm 119:105](http://biblegateway.com/bible?version=ESV&passage=Psalm+119:105)).

2/ The tempter uses scripture to deceive, the same can be said about people using what is close to us to trick us, to use us Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ~1 Corinthians 16:13.

3/ When we are at the lowest point, exhausted, hungry, tired, stressed, anxious, depressed, persecuted or hurt, remember that Jesus has been there, He has stood on the highest mountain and viewed all the kingdoms.