

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 4:1–11

“The Obedient Son in the Wilderness”

Preaching Date: April 19, 2026

Opening Prayer

Ask God to give us reverence under His Word. Ask Him to show us Christ as the obedient Son, the true Israel, and the last Adam who stood where Adam fell, and Israel failed. Ask Him to expose our unbelief, uncover our idols, and teach us to trust His Word and worship Him alone.

Recap

In Matthew 4:1–11, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. There He stands as the true Son of God, the true Israel, and the last Adam. Where Adam fell in a garden full of provision, and where Israel failed in the wilderness, Christ obeys in hunger and trial. Satan presses Him to use His Sonship for private relief, to demand proof of the Father’s care, and to seize glory through idolatry. Jesus answers each temptation with the written Word. This passage reveals the obedient Christ whose righteousness and victory belong to His people. From union with Him, believers learn how temptation is fought through faith, submission, and worship.

Understanding the Text

1. Why is it significant that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, and what does that teach us about God’s sovereignty over testing and Satan’s malice in tempting?
2. How does Matthew present Jesus in this passage as the true Son of God, the true Israel, and the last Adam?
3. Why does Satan begin by saying, “If You are the Son of God,” and what does that reveal about the real target of these temptations?
4. What does Jesus mean when He answers, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”?
5. Why is Satan’s use of Psalm 91 in the second temptation deceptive, and how does Jesus show the right way to handle Scripture?
6. What is the deeper issue in the third temptation, and how does it expose the worship question that lies beneath every sin?
7. Why must this passage be read first as revealing Christ’s representative obedience before it is applied as instruction for the believer’s fight against temptation?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. In what areas of life are you most tempted to treat desire as law rather than submit desire to the Word of God?

2. Where are you prone to demand certainty, visible proof, or control instead of trusting God?
3. What shortcut are you most tempted to take in order to gain comfort, approval, success, or influence without costly obedience?
4. How does Christ's obedience in the wilderness strengthen your assurance when you feel weak in the face of temptation?
5. What use of the means of grace needs to be strengthened in your life right now: Scripture, prayer, confession of sin, fellowship, accountability, or gathered worship?

God Has More to Say

Christ the true Son, the true Israel, and the last Adam

Genesis 3:1-15

Exodus 4:22-23

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Romans 5:12-19

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Christ's obedience, suffering, and victory for His people

Isaiah 53:10-12

Philippians 2:5-11

Hebrews 2:14-18

Hebrews 4:14-16

Colossians 2:13-15

The authority of Scripture and the life of faith

Deuteronomy 6:13-16

Psalms 119:9-16

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Matthew 6:25-34

Romans 10:17

Temptation, idolatry, and spiritual warfare

Genesis 3:1-6

James 1:13-15

Romans 1:21-25

Ephesians 6:10-18

1 Peter 5:8-9

Assurance in Christ and strength for obedience

Romans 8:1-4

Romans 8:31-39

Galatians 4:4-7

Hebrews 12:1-11

James 4:7-10