

## **Matthew 4:1-11**

July 8, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**C. S. Lewis:** *“A silly idea is current that good people don't know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply doesn't know what it would've been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They've lived a sheltered life by always giving in.”*

We don't have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin. (**Hebrews 4:15**)

**William Butler Yeats:** *“Every conquered temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before.”*

**Deuteronomy 8** - Remember that these forty years the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you'd keep His commandments. He humbled you, and in your hunger gave you manna to eat... so that you might understand that man doesn't live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing didn't wear out these forty years.

**Peter wrote:** Paul wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him... Some parts of his letters are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

**Acts 20:29-30** - After I leave, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.

**Acts 20:27** - "I didn't shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

**Rev. 11:15** - Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The kingdom of the world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

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## Six Strategies For Defeating Temptation

### 1. Recognize the possibility of temptation.

**1 Cor. 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except what is *common to mankind*.

**1 Cor. 10:12** - Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

**Proverbs 16:18** - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

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### 2. Request help in time of temptation.

Jesus said: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

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### 3. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4).

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**4. Retreat from certain kinds of temptation.**

**1 Cor. 6:18 - Flee sexual immorality.**

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**5. Remove any means of sin far from you.**

**Romans 13:14 - Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and *make no provision for the flesh*, to fulfill its lusts.**

**Proverbs 4:14-15 - Don't enter the path of the wicked, and don't walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, don't travel on it; turn away from it and pass on.**

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**6. Rely on God's Word**

**Eph. 6:17 - Take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.**

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