



Tempted As We Are

Matthew 4:1-11

Palmaria

Matthew 4:1-2

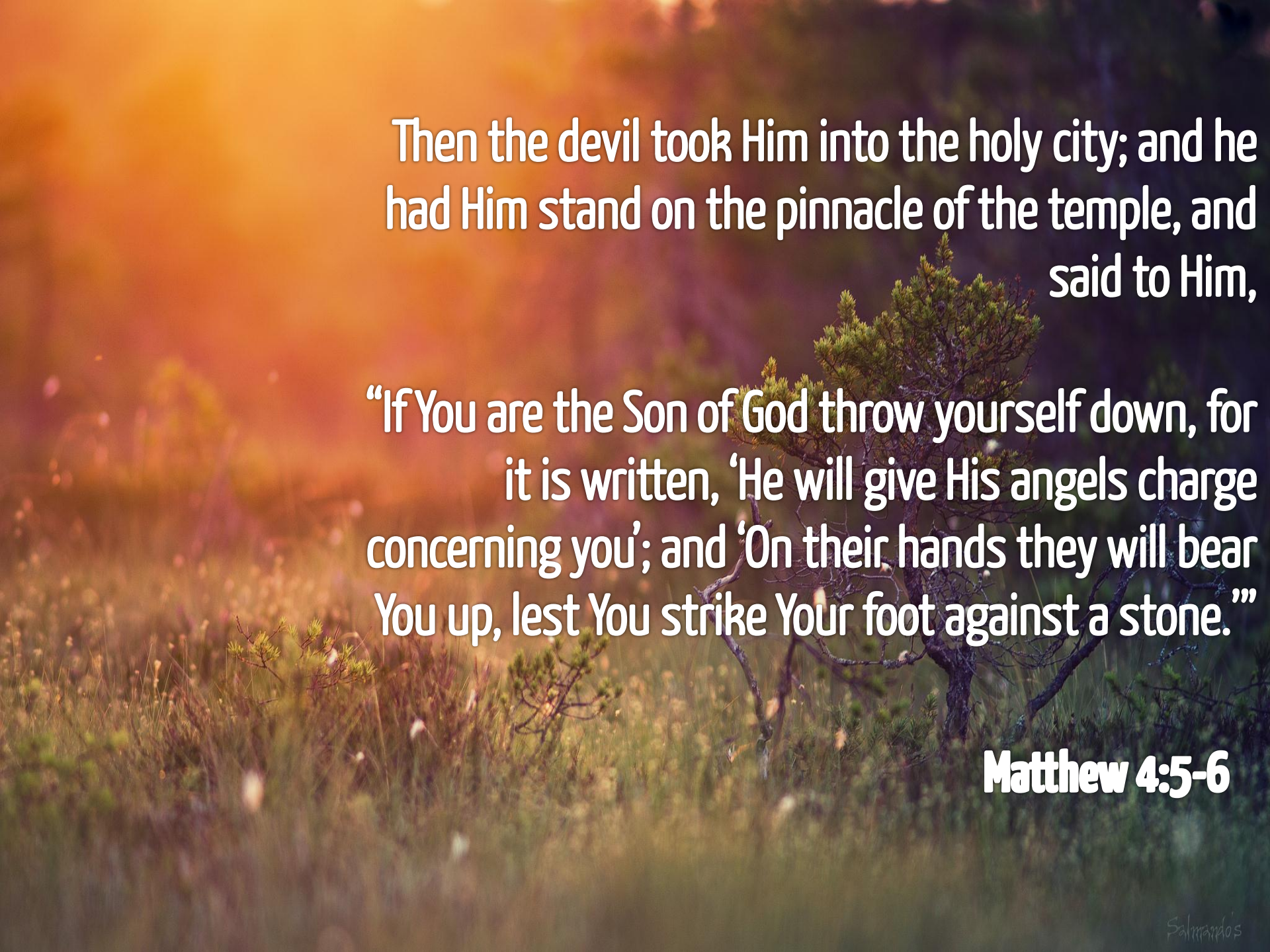
- It is comforting to know that Jesus' temptation was real, practical (Hebrews 4:15). He had to deal with it the same way we do, so the lesson of 1 Corinthians 10:12-14 is not mere theory.
- “He then became hungry” – The physical component of the temptation should never be minimized.
- Satan interrupted Jesus in the midst of a very trying spiritual and physical discipline. Did this bother Jesus? Probably, but Satan rarely finds us when it is convenient.

**“If You are the Son of
God...”**

Matthew 4:3

Matthew 4:4

- Jesus turns to His greatest defense, the witness and wisdom of scripture. Quoting from Deuteronomy 8:3, He looks beyond the devil's request to the deeper lesson:
- By what is man truly sustained? If by bread, then his being can be manipulated, marred, even destroyed. But if by the Word of God, then even physical life can be taken away and his being will still thrive (2 Peter 3:5,7, Philippians 4:11-12, John 4:31ff). A person no longer NEEDS food to exist.

The background of the image is a soft-focus landscape. In the foreground, there is a small, dark pine tree with green needles. The ground is covered in tall, dry grasses and some small white flowers. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise, with a bright orange and yellow glow that fades into a darker blue and purple sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him,

“If You are the Son of God throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will give His angels charge concerning you’; and ‘On their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.’”

Matthew 4:5-6


“Throw Yourself Down”

- The temple pinnacle might have been as high as 450 feet to the bottom of the Kidron Valley. The crowd would have seen quite a superhuman display.
- The real temptation is in fanatic presumption. “If you trust God so much that you won’t take miraculous bread, then show me something really amazing!” He quotes Psalm 91:11-12.
- Oddly enough, such a leap would have actually shown a lack of faith in God. That is the fallacy of the devil’s temptation.

A scenic landscape featuring a small, dark pine tree in the foreground, set against a bright, hazy sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The background is filled with soft, out-of-focus greenery and trees. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**“You shall not put the
Lord your God to the
test”**

Matthew 4:7, Deuteronomy 6:16

A landscape photograph featuring a field of tall grasses and a small, gnarled tree in the foreground. The background is a soft, blurred forest under a warm, golden sunset sky. The text "Testing Is Not Trusting" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Testing Is Not Trusting

Something To Remember

- It is striking that Jesus refused to play along with the devil's game in these temptations. Satan asked for a miraculous display, something amazing, but only got wisdom.
- Hebrews 2:14-18 would mean nothing if Jesus had responded with miracles. What good does it do to fend off Satan with a power that mere humans do not have? What would it have proved?
- Be encouraged that Jesus deflected Satan's temptations with the same tools we all have (Ephesians 6:10ff).

A scenic landscape featuring a small, gnarled tree in the foreground, set against a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the background shows a dense forest of green trees. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**“Fall down and
worship me”**

Matthew 4:8-9

Kingdoms And Glory

- Taken either literally or miraculously, the view must have been stunning. And yet there is a level of desperation in this final temptation.
- Perhaps this temptation is aimed more at us than Jesus, anyway. There is simply no way Jesus would have acquiesced, since He was privy to sights even Satan could not have imagined (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:14-17). But we might read about such a temptation and feel more willing to give in.

“Begone, Satan!”

- You knew that Jesus would eventually get tired of the devil’s pestering ways. So He swiftly, decisively shoves him away (James 4:7ff). He allowed Satan to tempt Him for a while to prove a point, but this last temptation results in a hearty “enough is enough!”
- The idea of bowing before the devil is patently insulting to Jesus, whose entire mission was to glorify God. In turn, God bestowed on Him the ultimate glory and honor (Ephesians 1:18-23, Philippians 2:9-11).