

# THE DUST OF THE RABBI

## Win the Battle

Matthew 4:1-11

### Expect the Battle

(1) Times of **progress**.

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

(2) Times of **wilderness**.

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

(3) Times of **weakness**.

For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very **hungry**. During that time the devil came... (Matthew 4:2-3, NLT)

Temptation strikes on **weak** days, works overtime on **weekends**, and never takes a **holiday!**

### Recognize the Battle

(1) The Battle over **gratification** - the temptation to meet **legitimate** needs in an **illegitimate** way.

During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of **bread**." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not **live** by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:3-4, NLT)

(2) The Battle with **Manipulation** - the temptation to presume upon God's **promise** even when we are not living according to God's **commands**.

Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, **jump** off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you **won't even hurt** your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not **test** the LORD your God.'" (Matthew 4:5-7, NLT)

(3) The Battle of **Justification** - the temptation to claim the **prize** without paying the **price**.

Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will **give it all to you**," he said, "if you will **kneel down and worship me**." "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'" (Matthew 4:8-10, NLT)

### Fight the Battle

(1) Know God's **Heart** - I will have all I **need** when I live off God's **word**.

"If you are the Son of God... But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not **live** by bread alone, but by **every word** that comes from the **mouth of God**.'" (Matthew 4:3-4, NLT)

(2) Trust God's **Plan** - I will see all of God's **power** when I trust in God's **will**.

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not **test** the LORD your God.'" (Matthew 4:7, NLT)

(3) Hold His **Hand** - I will know all of God's **blessing** when I hold to God's **ways**.

"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must **worship** the LORD your God and **serve** only him.'" (Matthew 4:10, NLT)

Then the devil went **away**, and angels came and **took care** of Jesus. (Matthew 4:11, NLT)

You may **fall** into temptation,  
but you never **fall** out of it;  
you have to **battle** your way out of it!