#### Following Christ to the Resurrection Part 7 – Operating Out of Your God Breathed Identity: Knowing Who You Are Because of Whose You Are

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

## Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

# After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

## Matthew 4:6a "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

## Matthew 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

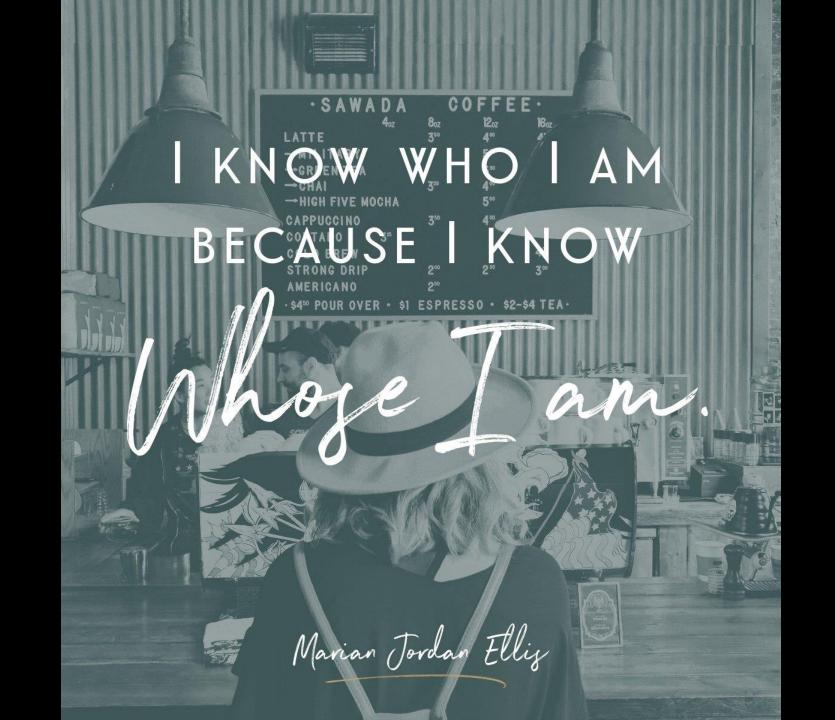
#### "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

## Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

## Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

# **Background of the Text**







Your God Breathed Identity The culmination of the unique ways in which God has created you to highlight specific attributes of His character and to fulfill His will. It is what makes you unique in the Kingdom of God. It is what makes you God's masterpiece.

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

Principle #1 A temptation to disobey God in order to derail or destroy is the work of Satan, but that same temptation functions as a test in the hands of God.

# **Matthew 4:1** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit

into the wilderness to be tempted\* by the devil.

\**peirazo* – to test, to tempt, to try to trap, to examine

Principle #2 **Every test that God allows in your** life is purposed to be passed, meant to teach, intended for advancement, and destined for blessing.

## 6 Results of Jesus' Victory

- 1. Reverses the failed test and consequences of Adam.
- 2. Reverses the failed test of the Israelites in the desert.
- 3. Confirms Jesus' God Breathed Identity and mission as the Savior of the world.

## 6 Results of Jesus' Victory

- 4. Confirms that Christ is worthy of bearing all of our sins as the perfect, holy, spotless, and blameless Lamb of God.
- 5. Guarantees us the power to resist temptation.
- 6. Demonstrates for us how to overcome temptation.

Principle #3 **One of Satan's most successful** tools for deception – which is to get you to drift off course - is to question your understanding of who you are, whose you are, who God is, and God's goodness.

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Principle #4 The allure of temptation is that it twists reality, so the antidote to temptation is found in an intimate relationship with God and with a spiritually mature understanding of the Word of God, which in turn will guide your understanding of reality.

## The 3 Twisted Realities

- 1. Our desires to have our needs and wants met our way.
- 2. Our desires to manipulate God into action on our behalf.
  - By expecting God to rescue us even when we are purposefully disobedient or consciously putting ourselves in harm's way.

The 3 Twisted Realities: 3. Taking short cuts to get what we want, when we want it, or taking short cuts to seize ahead of time, what God has promised us in His perfect season and timing.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

#### "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

Principle #5 Jesus Christ is God's example of perfect humanity lived perfectly in the power of the Spirit. A part of Christ's mission was to show us what it means to be fully human, in accordance with our God **Breathed Identities.** 

## Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

Principle #6 **Overcoming temptation is not a** fixed destination or a once and for all accomplishment. Resisting temptation, especially when you are weak and weary, is a part of being a disciple of Christ.

## Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## Luke 4:13

When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

Principle #7 Living out your God Breathed Identity requires resisting the Devil (sin, the world, and the flesh), through the power of the Holy Spirit, based on the truth of the Word of God, in order to accomplish the perfect will of our Good, Good Father.

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