

# JESUS



THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW



Temptation

Temptation is the moment when  
what you *want* to do is in conflict  
with what you *should* do.

Temptation is the moment  
when we consider trading  
what we want most in the future  
for what we want right now.

# The Odyssey

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Homer (750 B.C.)







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*“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over us. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames.*

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*It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame, and power, or greed for money, or finally that strange desire for the beauty of the world. Joy in God is in course of being extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real:*

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*the only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with a hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God. The lust thus aroused envelopes the mind and will of man in deepest darkness. The powers of clear discrimination and of decision are taken from us. It is here that everything within me rises up against God.”*

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Then...

**Matthew 4:1 NIV**



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

**Matthew 4:1 NIV**



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

**Matthew 4:2 NIV**



Pay attention to the when, where, who,  
and how of temptation in your life.



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

**Matthew 4:3 NIV**



Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to **humble** and **test** you in order to know what was in your **heart**, whether or not you would keep his commands.

**Deuteronomy 8:2 NIV**



He humbled you, causing you to **hunger** and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, **to teach you** that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV**



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

**Matthew 4:4 NIV**



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

**Matthew 4:5 NIV**



“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 4:6 NIV**



Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the **test**.’”

**Matthew 4:7 NIV**



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

**Matthew 4:8 NIV**



**“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”**

**Matthew 4:9 NIV**



Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

**Matthew 4:10 NIV**



Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Matthew 4:11 NIV**

In the moment of temptation,  
you never know what may  
be hanging in the balance.



If you've given into temptation, it's  
never too late to walk away from sin.

There is a path that leads us into temptation, and there is a path that leads us out of temptation.



Every time you walk away from  
temptation you are following Jesus.

Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect **like us**, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.

**Hebrews 2:17 NIV**



**Since** he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to **help us** when we are being tested.

**Hebrews 2:18 NIV**

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us **hold firmly to the faith** we profess.

**Hebrews 4:14 NIV**



For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted **in every way**, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

**Hebrews 4:15 NIV**



Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and **find grace to help us** in our time of need.

**Hebrews 4:16 NIV**