

Matthew 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

Analysis

The tempter's approach 'If thou be the Son of God' questions the Father's declaration at baptism (3:17), introducing doubt. The command 'make these stones bread' tempts Jesus to use divine power for self-serving purposes rather than trusting the Father's provision. This tests whether Jesus will act independently or in submission to God's will and timing.

Historical Context

After 40 days fasting, Jesus experienced extreme physical hunger—a legitimate need. Satan's temptation wasn't to do evil per se but to meet legitimate needs through illegitimate means (self-will rather than God's provision). This parallels Eve's temptation with 'good' fruit.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you face the temptation to meet legitimate needs through illegitimate means?

2. What does Jesus' refusal teach about trusting God's provision?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	προσελθὼν	αὐτῷ	ὁ	πειράζων	εἶπεν	Εἰ	υἱὸς	
And	came	to him	G3588	when the tempter	command	If	the Son	
G2532	G4334	G846		G3985	G2036	G1487	G5207	
εἰ	τοῦ	Θεοῦ,	εἶπεν	ἵνα	οἱ	λίθοι	οὗτοι	ἄρτοι
thou be	G3588	of God	command	that	G3588	stones	these	bread
G1488		G2316	G2036	G2443		G3037	G3778	G740
γένωνται								
be made								
G1096								

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 3:5 (Parallel theme): For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Matthew 3:17 (Parallel theme): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.