

# 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

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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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ προσελθὼν αὐτῷ ὁ πειράζων εἰπὲ Εἰ νιὸς  
And came to him when the tempter command If the Son  
G2532 G4334 G846 G3588 G3985 G2036 G1487 G5207

εἰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἰπὲ τίνα οἱ λίθοι οὗτοι ἄρτοι  
thou be of God command that stones these bread  
G1488 G3588 G2316 G2036 G2443 G3588 G3037 G3778 G740

γένωνται

be made

G1096

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## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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