

Don't Test God...Trust Him

2026-01-18 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Matthew 4

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

For the second temptation, Satan quoted Scripture. He took Jesus to the highest point of the temple and recited Psalm 91: throw yourself down, the angels will catch you. The quote was accurate and the use was wrong. Psalm 91 promises God's presence to his people, not immunity from everything bad. Jesus answered from Deuteronomy: do not put the Lord your God to the test, pointing back to Massah, where Israel demanded proof from a God who had just parted a sea for them. Obedience that waits for God to prove himself first never gets started.

To get started

- When did you last ask someone to prove something they had already shown you?

Looking back at the message

That Satan quotes Scripture correctly is the unsettling part. Let it be unsettling.

- 1 Satan quoted the Bible accurately and still used it wrong. What does that do to the idea that quoting a verse settles an argument?
- 2 Pastor Matt said depth with God usually looks boring: daily, quiet, unimpressive faithfulness. How have you found that to be true, or not?
- 3 Pastor Matt said Psalm 91 promises God's presence in trouble, not immunity from it. He does not always stop the bad, but he is with us in it. How has that been enough for you, honestly? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 4:5-7, then Psalm 91:11-12, then Deuteronomy 6:16. In that order.

- 4 Read Matthew 4:5-7. What does Satan ask Jesus to do, and what reason does he give?
- 5 Now read Psalm 91:11-12 in its setting. Who is the psalm for, and what does it actually promise?
- 6 Deuteronomy 6:16 mentions Massah. Read Exodus 17:1-7. What did Israel do there, and what had God just done for them?
- 7 Based on these passages, how would you explain the difference between trusting God and testing him?

Bringing it home

Everyone has asked God for a sign. Do not make that shameful.

- 8 When have you set a condition for God, even privately, before you would obey?
- 9 Israel had watched a sea split open only weeks earlier. Why is yesterday's evidence so easy to discount?
- 10 Where are you waiting for proof before obeying?
- 11 What promise of God have you been reading as immunity when it is really presence?

OPTIONAL

The group together

Misusing Scripture is a group risk, not only an individual one.

- 12 A verse can be quoted correctly and used wrongly. How does a group guard against that together?
- 13 What has this group already seen God do that deserves writing down?
- 14 How do we sit with someone whose prayer has not been answered without tossing them a quick verse?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What would change this week if you acted on what God has already said instead of waiting for something new?

You might pray about

- For trust rather than terms and conditions
- For those praying for something that has not come
- For memory of what God has already done
- For care in how we handle Scripture with each other