

Time Audit Chronicles: The Temptation of Jesus

(Matthew 4:1-11)

Prologue: Standing Strong

It was a rainy evening at the Presswood house, and the family had gathered in the living room for a cozy night of games and hot cocoa. Ariel was deep into a strategy board game with Ryan, her competitive streak in full force. Across the room, Alice sat with Mr. Fluffernutter, engaged in an imaginary battle between her stuffed bunny and an army of “temptation monsters” she’d built from blocks and toys.

“I don’t get it,” Ariel said as she watched Ryan take her last piece. “Why is resisting temptation so hard sometimes? It feels like there’s always something pulling you in the wrong direction.”

Ryan smiled gently. “That’s part of being human, Ariel. But even Jesus faced temptation, and He showed us how to stand strong against it.”

Alice looked up, intrigued. “Wait, Jesus got tempted? Like with cookies or candy?”

Ryan laughed. “Not exactly. But He did face real challenges, and He overcame them by staying close to God’s Word and trusting in His Father’s plan.”

“How did He do it?” Ariel asked.

“Let’s find out,” Ryan said. “The Time Audit Machine can take us there.”

Alice gasped, clutching Mr. Fluffernutter. “You mean we’re going to see Jesus fight temptation monsters?”

“Something even better,” Ryan said. “We’re going to see Him win.”

The Journey Begins: Into the Wilderness

The Time Audit Machine glowed with energy as Ariel adjusted the controls, setting the destination:

- **Location**: Judean wilderness.
- **Time**: Approximately 27-29 CE.
- **Objective**: Witness Jesus’ victory over temptation.

With a rush of light, the garage disappeared, and the Presswoods found themselves standing in a desolate, sun-scorched wilderness. The rocky terrain stretched endlessly in every direction, and the air shimmered with heat.

“Where are we?” Alice asked, shielding her eyes from the glare.

“This is the wilderness,” Ryan said. “Right after Jesus was baptized, He came here to fast and pray—and to face the devil’s temptations.”

“Forty days without food?” Ariel asked, glancing around. “That’s intense.”

“It was a time of preparation,” Ryan explained. “Jesus was getting ready to start His ministry, but first, He had to face this trial.”

The First Temptation: Hunger and Trust

The Presswoods spotted Jesus sitting quietly on a large rock, His face calm but clearly weary. Suddenly, another figure appeared, his movements serpentine and his voice low and smooth.

“Look!” Alice whispered, pointing. “Who’s that?”

“That’s the tempter,” Ryan said, his voice serious. “The devil came to test Jesus when He was at His weakest.”

The devil approached Jesus, gesturing toward the stones scattered around them. “If thou be the Son of God,” he said mockingly, “command that these stones be made bread.” (Matthew 4:3)

“Why bread?” Alice asked.

“Because Jesus hadn’t eaten in forty days,” Ryan explained. “The devil wanted Him to use His power to satisfy His hunger instead of trusting God to provide.”

Jesus’ voice was steady as He replied: “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4)

Ariel’s eyes widened. “He quoted Scripture?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus used God’s Word to resist the temptation and show that trusting God is more important than physical needs.”

The Second Temptation: Testing God

The scene shifted as the Presswoods followed Jesus and the tempter to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem. The city stretched out below them, the golden rooftops gleaming in the sun.

The devil gestured grandly. “If thou be the Son of God,” he said, “cast thyself down: for it is written, ‘He shall give His angels charge concerning thee.’” (Matthew 4:6)

Ariel frowned. “Wait, now the devil is quoting Scripture?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “But he’s twisting it. He wanted Jesus to prove God’s protection in a dramatic way—basically, to show off.”

Jesus' voice was firm as He responded: "It is written again, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'" (Matthew 4:7)

"So He's saying you shouldn't test God just to make a point?" Ariel asked.

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Jesus trusted God without needing to demand a sign. He knew real faith doesn't need to prove itself."

The Third Temptation: Worship and Power

The scene shifted again, this time to a high mountain overlooking the kingdoms of the world. The devil stood beside Jesus, his tone filled with false generosity.

"All these things will I give thee," he said, gesturing to the lands below, "if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:9)

Alice gasped. "He's trying to trick Jesus into worshipping him!"

"Right," Ryan said. "The devil was offering Jesus an easy way to power without the suffering of the cross. But Jesus knew God's plan was the only way."

Jesus' voice rang out like thunder: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'" (Matthew 4:10)

At His words, the devil recoiled, his figure fading into shadow as he disappeared.

"He won!" Alice cheered, holding Mr. Fluffernutter high in triumph.

The Angels Minister to Jesus

As the devil vanished, the scene softened. Angels appeared, their presence glowing with warmth and light. They brought food and water to Jesus, ministering to Him with gentle care.

"He's not alone," Ariel said softly.

"God always provides," Ryan said. "Even in our hardest moments, He sends what we need."

Returning Home: Lessons from the Wilderness

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on what they had seen.

"Jesus didn't just fight temptation," Ariel said finally. "He used God's Word and trusted Him completely."

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “And because He resisted, He showed us how to stand strong, no matter what we face.”

Alice tilted her head. “Do you think we can win like Jesus did?”

“We can,” Ryan said, kneeling beside her. “When we rely on God’s Word and trust His plan, He gives us the strength to overcome.”

Reflection: Victory Through Faith

That evening, Ariel read aloud from Matthew 4:

“‘Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.’”

The family sat in thoughtful silence, reflecting on how Jesus had faced every temptation without faltering.

“Jesus showed us that even in our weakest moments, God’s Word is our greatest weapon,” Ryan said.

“And we can trust Him to take care of us,” Ariel added.

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. “If Jesus can beat temptation, so can we!”

“And because of Him,” Ryan said with a smile, “we don’t have to do it alone.”

Takeaway: Trusting God in Trials

The temptation of Jesus demonstrates His perfect obedience and unwavering trust in God. By standing strong against the devil, He showed us how to resist temptation and live in faithfulness. Through His example, we can rely on God’s Word and His power to overcome anything that tries to pull us away from His plan.