



# Jesus is Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

**"Whoa, Shadow! Good boy!" Sir Praisealot called to his horse as they rode into the Garden of the King. He looked around; he was to meet Gus there for his next lesson. As usual, Gus was late. As he waited, Sir Praisealot began to think out loud.**

**"I am so special to have been given the task of training young Goofus the gallant to become a Royal Knight," he announced to himself proudly. "Being a knight is the noblest job in the entire kingdom. And, of course, there is no knight nobler than I, Sir Praisealot! The bravest, the boldest, the strongest, the humblest..." he said as he puffed out his chest. Then he stopped as he realized that he was bragging. "Oh, no...oh no...once again I have become prideful! A knight must never let his pride take over or before long, he'll be praising and serving himself more than he praises and serves God. The Bible says: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.' I must be sure to remember that!"**

**"Sir Praisealot? Sir Praisealot?" Gus called from the edge of the garden. "Sir Praisealot? There you are! I am ready for my lesson," he said as he attempted a royal bow. Instead, the clumsy young man fell forward into a mud puddle.**

**"On your feet, Gus, you are late!" Sir Praisealot called out from atop his horse.**

**Gus jumped up and wiped the mud from his face. "I'm sorry, Sir."**

**"A knight must always be on time. It is our duty to protect the kingdom," Sir Praisealot instructed. "Suppose we were to be attacked by Robespierre?"**

**"Who's Robespierre?" Gus asked.**

**"He is my nemesis. He's an evil, no good, trouble-making rascal and should he appear, I would chase him away like the coward that he is!" Praisealot promised.**

**"Is he strong?" Gus wondered.**

**"Robespierre? He is a master swordsman, but he is no match for me." Sir Praisealot raised his fist into the air. "I am a knight of the King. Brave and powerful, noble and true and...and..." he stopped again. "Oh no, my pride. Forgive me, Father! 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only,'" he prayed.**

**Gus looked confused. "Are you all right?" he asked the knight.**

**Sir Praisealot smiled, "Of course, I just had a moment of pride. Now, where was I? Oh yes, a knight must always be on time and prepared to defend the Kingdom!"**

**"I shall defend the Kingdom against Robespierre!" Gus exclaimed.  
Sir Praisealot leapt from his horse, sword in hand. "Robespierre! Where? Where?!"**

**Gus shook his head. "He's not here. I just said 'if' he shows up!"**

**Sir Praisealot looked embarrassed as he put his sword back. "Oh, don't do that!"**

**"Did I scare you?" Gus asked.**

**"Who me? I am Sir Praisealot, praise God! Captain of the Castle Guard and servant to the King, praise God! I fear no man! I am fearless, courageous, valiant, dauntless and... and..." the knight stopped in the middle of his bragging. "I'm afraid I am full of pride. 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only,'" he said.**

**"Why do you do that?" Gus questioned.**

**"I can't help it," Sir Praisealot replied. "I hate my pride. I want to be the best at serving God, but my pride keeps rearing its ugly head."**

**Gus shook his head. "No, I don't mean the pride thing. I mean the other thing. Why do you keep repeating those words?"**

**"Oh that, those words are from the Bible. Whenever I feel tempted to take the credit for who God has made me to be, I fight that temptation by quoting God's Word," Sir Praisealot explained.**

**"Does that really work?" Gus asked.**

**"Oh yes! There is power in the Word of God! I learned that from Jesus," Sir Praisealot said.**

**Gus was surprised. "You did?"**

**"Yes, I shall show you. Fetch the Word of God right now!" ordered Sir Praisealot.**

**Gus looked around, wondering how he could go get words. "The what?" he asked.**

**"The Word of God, it's another name for the Bible," Sir Praisealot explained.**

**"Aha! I shall fetch the Word of God right now!" Gus removed the Bible from its window and returned to Sir Praisealot's side. "Here is your word, sir."**

**"Oh no, it is God's Word." Sir Praisealot corrected as he took the Bible from Gus. "Let us learn from Him. In this report, Jesus had given up food and had gone into the desert for forty days when who should appear but Satan himself?!"**

**"Ooh, I hate that guy!" Gus said with a shiver.**

**"We all do," replied Sir Praisealot. "But on this occasion Satan, that evil trickster, tempted Jesus."**

**"Jesus was tempted like we are?" Gus asked, surprised.**

**"Yes. Remember, Jesus came as a man just like we are. Jesus faced the same temptations we face," Sir Praisealot explained as he opened the Bible to Matthew 4.**

**"Was Jesus frightened?" Gus asked.**

**"No, we have nothing to fear from Satan for we have the most powerful weapon!" the knight said. "Jesus used a sword that was greater than any weapon man can ever make. He used the Word of God as His sword!"**

**"You mean the Bible?" Gus wondered.**

**"Yes, when Jesus was very hungry, Satan tempted Him to make bread from the stones." Sir Praisealot read, "Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'""**

**"What happened?" Gus asked.**

**Jesus refused to do what Satan suggested, so Satan tempted Him with something else. Satan told Jesus to prove that He was God's Son by jumping off the top of the temple. Jesus answered with this Bible verse: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"**

**"Did it help Him?" Gus questioned.**

**"Yes, Jesus stood strong!" Sir Praisealot replied. "Finally, Satan tempted Jesus to worship him instead of worshiping God. But Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'""**

**Gus was amazed. "And Satan went away?!"**

**"Of course, he did! You can't argue with the truth of God's Word."**

**"I want to do what Jesus did!" Gus announced. "I want to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God!"**

**"Now you're talking like a true knight!" Sir Praisealot praised. "Together we shall worship the Lord our God and serve Him only! After all..."**

**Sir Praisealot paused as they pulled out their swords and crossed them in the air. "Serving the King is the noblest thing!" They announced together.**

**"Remember to study God's Word!" Sir Praisealot said as he put away his sword and mounted his horse Shadow.**

**"And I will use it to fight temptation!" Gus called in agreement as Sir Praisealot rode away.**