

# ESCAPING TOUGH TERRAIN

## SCRIPTURE:

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came...(Read Matthew 4: 1-11).*

## MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Four Wheeler

## MAIN MESSAGE:

If we know God and live for Him, we are able to withstand the harshest of conditions that this world has.

## SONG: "Jesus Paid It All"

## LESSON:

Four wheelers can be very fun. You can go just about anywhere you want to go with them. Through the mud, water, hills, mountains or even just dry land, it doesn't matter because they will do just about whatever you want them to.

In life, we are going to have plenty of temptations and opportunities to get caught up in sin. That's where this "Four-Wheeler" approach to life comes into play. It's not that we look for rough spots, but rather, that when we find ourselves in one, we understand that God has provided a way out- like a four wheeler for temptation. Consider what Jesus did in Matthew chapter 4.

When Jesus had been led to the wilderness and had fasted for 40 days, that's when the tempter came. When he thinks Jesus is at his weakest point, he offers Him what His body would have been craving- food. However, Jesus, being more committed to obedience to His Heavenly Father, refused and combated the temptation with Scripture. No matter how hungry He may have been, giving in to sin was not a realistic option.

That would be impressive enough if that's all that Jesus had to endure; however, the Scripture tells us that Satan didn't give up on Him after that. Instead, Satan pursued Him from two other angles, trying to get Him to fail. Like a strong iron post, Jesus stood with Scripture and didn't give in to what the Scriptures call temptations (that would have meant these situations presented to Him must have been desirable.).

We too must be able to have the courage to do what He did. We also need to realize that even in our weakest state, we can still have the strength to stand up for what is right and for our Creator. Let us encourage each other to get through those hard times in life that may really have an effect on us, whether it is peer pressure, addiction, heart ache, sickness, abuse, or even money. No matter what the problem, we can turn to God and put all of our faith and trust in Him, and we will get through the tough terrain of life. Remember, He has promised that where there is a temptation, there is a way out (1 Corinthians 10:13). Like that four wheeler we were talking about earlier, we can get out of anything.

**PRAYER:** Help us to always keep our eyes on You even when times get tough.