

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:


PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

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THIS IS
JESUS
Discover How Jesus Helps US
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 02/23/20
Study Date: 03/01/20

Jesus Understands My Temptations

The three temptations Matthew recorded for us fall into broad categories that can be applied to temptations we face today.

First, there was an appeal to physical needs. Jesus was hungry, and the devil tempted Him to make the stones become bread.

Second, there was the temptation to take a short cut. Jesus knew what He needed to do to fulfill the Father's plan. He had to go to Jerusalem, suffer, and be killed (see Matthew 16:21). The devil tempted Jesus to bypass all of that with a dramatic display of God's power that would firmly establish Jesus as the Son of God.

Finally, the devil tempted Jesus with power: "I will give you the kingdoms of the world if you will worship me." Point out that Jesus never disputed that the worldly kingdoms were the devil's to give.

Jesus responded to all three of the devil's temptations with Scripture. Notice He didn't say, "Hold on a minute, Devil, while I look up this verse." He had God's Word hidden in His heart, so that He wouldn't sin against God (Psalm 119:11). As Christ followers, we need to be in God's Word every day, not just pulling the Bible off the shelf "in case of emergency." When Paul described the armor of God in his letter to the church in Ephesus, he called the Word of God the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17). It is the only offensive weapon in the entire arsenal. And don't miss the purpose for the full armor of God in the first place. Ephesians 6:11 says it is so that "you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Matthew 4:11 says that the Devil left Jesus, and angels came and attended Him. When you compare Luke's account of the temptation (Luke 4:13), you see the phrase "The devil left Him until an opportune time." We know that the devil will never leave us alone for long. But the promise we have from Scripture is that when we "resist the devil, He will flee from" us (James 4:7). Don't miss the word "flee." Flee is something someone does when he is on the run from a superior force. The devil's a coward. He picks on us when we are feeling weak, but he turns tail when we show the first sign of strength. And he knows that there are plenty of easier targets than a Christ follower who stands up to him with God's Word!

The promise of God is that His Spirit will help us in our weakness (Romans 8:26). For Jesus, there was the physical presence of God's angels. But we have the same promise from God.

Source: "The Devil Made Me Do It - Matthew 4" by James Jackson

KEY VERSE

Matthew 4:2 (NKJV)

And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 4:1-11; James 1:12-15; Mark 16

Introduction

1. What is temptation? How would you describe it simply to a someone who isn't a Christian?
2. How has Jesus helped you to face temptation in your life?

Tuesday: Matthew 4:1; I Peter 5:8-9; Luke 1

Know That Satan Is The Tempter

3. What do we learn about Satan from today's Scripture reading?
4. In what ways has Satan been a roaring lion in your life? How has he sought to devour you?

Wednesday: Matthew 4:1-2; Mathew 26:41; Luke 2

Prepare For Times Of Temptation

5. Have you had specific times during which temptation was more of a problem? Why was this the case and how did you respond to it?
6. Do you ever find yourself being tempted in the same way over and over again? Why do you think this is the case?

Thursday: Matthew 4:3-10; I John 2:15-17; Luke 3

Understand The Categories Of Temptation

7. What categories of temptation did Jesus face?
8. How do we see the same type of temptations manifest in our lives?
9. How did Jesus respond to the devil's temptation? Take a moment to reflect on how much of God's scripture you have hidden in your heart. When tempted do you know Scripture well enough to fight against temptation?

Friday: Matthew 4:11; I Corinthians 10:13; Luke 4

Take The Way Of Escape From Temptation

10. What are some practical ways that you can escape from temptation?
11. How might we better equip ourselves with the Word of God so that we are ready to respond in the face of temptation?
12. How can prayer help to both protect you and help you escape from temptation? Spend some time praying for spiritual protection for yourself and our church family.