

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**MATTHEW 4****Matthew 4**

Matthew four continues the gospel narrative of Jesus and his cousin John the Baptist, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. John is introduced as the prophet who is the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of Isaiah, and according to Jesus, one of the several fulfillments of Elijah coming before the coming of the promised ruler and redeemer as prophesied by Malachi. Chapter four is the continuing narrative that began in chapter 3:13 with the details of the baptism of Jesus and the immediate recognition from God the Father that Jesus is indeed His one-of-a-kind son.

After the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus to be alone in the Judean desert to be confronted and tempted by the Adversary. A careful reading of the text and comparing Scripture with Scripture gets us to the heart of the temptation. ***"This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin."*** (Hebrew 4:15)

Many will say that Jesus was tempted with every single temptation that every person ever has been. That is true as it relates to the nature of the temptation. The Bible teaches that there are only three categories of temptation in this world. ***"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."*** (1 John 2:15-17)

The three categories delineated in 1 John 2:15-17 are as follows:

The ***Lust of the Flesh***. This is an ***inordinate temptation to do something*** that God has forbidden or forbidden how a lawful desire is fulfilled. For example, the sexual desire between a man and woman is good and godly, but only within the boundaries of marriage, not before marriage or

outside of the marriage bond with anyone other than one's spouse, Jesus did not fulfill all the TaNaK/Old Testament upon coming to earth 2000 years ago. The majority of Scriptures related to the Messiah speak of what has happened since He came or what is yet to come.

The ***Lust of the Eyes***. This is the ***inordinate desire to have something*** that God has not ordained that we have or to acquire something in a way God has not ordained to acquire something. An example would be that God has ordained that man earn things by the sweat of his brow, work. If a man desires something that someone else has to the point of covetousness and steals or takes something, or someone, from someone else unlawfully, that is not God's design.

The ***Pride of Life***. This is the ***inordinate desire to be someone*** God has not ordained to be or to bring about who you are or perceived to be in a way God has not ordained. This is to desire to be someone God would not have you be or be involved in attitudes or activities that cause you to obtain a certain status in a way God did not ordain.

The Lord Jesus was tempted in each of the categories mentioned above. In each temptation, Satan, the adversary (that is what the word Satan means), misquoted and misappropriated the Words of God, the Scriptures. He took them out of context, misquoted, or left out important words to twist and distort their meaning. Remember what you have been taught. ***"Any scripture out of context will eventually be used as a proof text."*** Satan and his demons are masters of misinterpreting and wrongly applying scriptures. Jesus answered Satan by properly quoting God's words within the proper context with proper application.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear God, please keep me consistent in reading and studying the sacred scriptures and learning to apply proper and sound methods of Bible Study, so I can live and apply the Bible to my life within the boundaries You designed. Teach me to follow the example of Jesus and rightly divide the Word of God. Amen