

Bible Study Notes
Week of March 30, 2009
Matthew 6:9-15; Matthew 4:1-11

Matthew 6:9-15

MT 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

" `Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

MT 6:10 your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

MT 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

MT 6:12 Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

*MT 6:13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. '*

MT 6:14 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 4:1-11 – Jesus in the Wilderness

MT 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

MT 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

MT 4:5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" `He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "

MT 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: `Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

MT 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

MT 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: `Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

MT 4:11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading
- Read text: First read the Lord's Prayer, and then read the Matthew 4 text. This week's sermon focused on Matthew 6:13 "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*", and our study will center on Jesus' experience with evil, temptation, and the devil during his time in the wilderness.

Overview observation question: What are the key 'movements' or 'sections' of this passage? What title would you give to each section?

first section—verses 1-4:

- O On whose initiative, and for what purpose, does Jesus go into the wilderness?
- O At what point does the devil approach Jesus? Why did he choose this moment?
- I What is the nature of the first temptation? What is being challenged? Compare 3:17 and 4:3.
- I Jesus' answer to the tempter (verse 4) comes from Moses' rehearsal of God's dealings with the People of Israel in Deuteronomy 8:1-3. What insight does this give you into how Jesus viewed this situation?
- A Since we can't turn stones into bread, we can't be given this same temptation. But is there a way in which this temptation is similar to a one that you might face?
- A How is Jesus' response a model for your own answer to this temptation?
- I/A How is God's word *bread* to you?

second section—verses 5-7:

- O In what ways does the second temptation (v. 5-7) differ from the first one? How is it similar?
- O What is Jesus' answer to the devils use of the scripture?

third section—verses 8-11

- O What change of tactics on the part of the devil do you observe in the third temptation (v. 8-11)?
- O What is the catch to the offer in verse 9?
- I What does this reveal about the tempters real goal in all three temptations?
- A How does Jesus deal with the third temptation? What is the result?

Application What can you learn about temptation and how to resist it from Jesus' example? How can the Lord's Prayer help you?