



# MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Read: Matthew 4:1-2

### **Plug In...**

Wilderness, 40 days, hunger. Matthew shares these details to recall past stories regarding Israel. This recollection sets the stage for the dialogue that follows. Although focusing on just verses 1-2 initially, reading Matthew 4:1-11 will provide the whole sweep of this scene.

### **Chew It Over...**

What does Israel's past experiences have to do with Jesus? Ask yourself how does this temptation in the wilderness contribute to Matthew's picture of the person and work of Jesus built up in chapters 1-3?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Acknowledge that Jesus is not just anyone, but the Messiah (the Son), Emmanuel – sent to save his people from their sins. Express to him your understanding that he was tested with regards to this very role on behalf of us.



# TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Read: Matthew 4:3-4 & Deuteronomy 8

### **Plug In...**

The first temptation from Satan seems appealing because of Jesus' current circumstances. He was hungry. Jesus responds using something Moses said in a big talk given to the Israelites just before entering the Promised Land – 40 years after being rescued from Egypt.

### **Chew It Over...**

After reading Deuteronomy 8, what is the lesson God was teaching the Israelites? What context did Jesus put physical comforts in? What purpose do they serve within your life? Ask yourself what are you really eating?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Confess an area of your life where you have sought the bread more than the baker. Praise God that whatever food or physical comforts you receive in this life, point you back to the Giver. Ask Him to make you more like Jesus; knowing survival is ultimately from God's Word, even when these temporary circumstances really hurt.



# WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Read: Matthew 4:5-7 & Psalm 91

### Plug In...

Psalm 91 is all about God protecting His Messiah, His Son. Yet, Satan is turning the truth of this psalm into a 'dare'.

### Chew It Over...

Think through the difference between genuinely trusting God versus daring God. Are there areas where you are reducing your God down to a performing-monkey?

### Prayer Suggestion

After considering those areas, confess where you've been asking God to follow *your* lead. Return to God asking Him to *lead* you by His Spirit.

Lord, we call you Lord recognising your holiness and greatness. You are God with this almighty status, and you are also the Father who gives good care. Help us to treat you with reverence and continue to expect your gracious protection.



# THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Read: Matthew 4:8-9 & Deuteronomy 6

### **Plug In...**

It has been said 'we become like what we worship'. Deuteronomy 6 shows a tight connection between worship and love. Deut. 6:25 states that for the Israelite, righteousness would be theirs if they *follow* ('love') the righteous LORD God. If Jesus had bowed to Satan, in a moment He would have become like the Devil.

### **Chew It Over...**

Do some self-analysis today. Look at what you love, what do you invest your heart, mind, and soul into? Have you begun to become like the very things you spend your existence on?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask God that to give you the heart needed to love Him with all your soul and strength. May He make you like Himself, a renewed person inside and out according to the image of the Creator (Col. 3:9-10).



# FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

**Read: Matthew 4:1-11 & Colossians 3:1-11**

## **Plug In...**

Read again this scene. Two Gospels in the New Testament give a lot of space to Jesus' clash with Satan at the beginning of his ministry. See also, Luke 4:1-13.

## **Chew It Over...**

Why is the Temptation story included in Scriptures? Why does this take place immediately after Jesus baptism and before Jesus starts preaching (4:17)?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank God, that although we grapple with an enemy, we know he is conquered. Ask that God will encourage you in this as you see particular things you struggle with put off (Col. 3:1-11). Ask Jesus to send Satan away for you.



# WEEKEND 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> FEB 2016

SERIES: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Read: Psalm 90 & 91

### **Plug In...**

Psalm 91 is meant to be read as a run-on to Psalm 90. Psalm 90 gives the history of Israel, and Psalm 91 gives a promise to the Messiah of Israel. After reading Psalm 91 again, it is interesting that one of Satan's tactics was to quote Scripture, God's Word. The words Satan quoted to Jesus were accurate (Ps. 91:11-12). Compare Matthew 4:6 with Psalm 91 and spot where Satan selectively stops his quoting.

### **Chew It Over...**

Think about how much evil has been done through the use of Scripture out of context. Think about how some of Jesus' last words from the cross (Luke 23:44-46) show Jesus knew the truth of Psalm 91 and had confidence in it.

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask God to fill you with His word about Jesus. That we will know and grow by the truths of *all* Scripture. That we will have it in our heart and it comes to mind in each and every difficult situation we encounter.

