



Matthew

Lesson 4

Just as Elijah declared to the nation of Israel that if they continued to ignore God and pursue their pagan practices God would bring judgment on them, so also, John the Baptist came as the last prophet to the nation to declare their need to repent. Before they would ever be able to see and understand Jesus as their promised Messiah, they would need to confess their rejection of God and rebellion against His commands. That repentance would give them clearer vision to see that Jesus was the true Son of God, and that His message was the truth

despite how contrary it seemed to the teaching of the religious leaders of the day. Repentance would also remind them they need to change the way they were living and return to obedience to God's commands not to the traditions of men. "...and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism said to them, 'You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bring fruit in keeping with repentance...'” Matthew 3:6-8

Read Chapter 4

1. *According to Matthew 4:1 and Mark 1:12, why did Jesus go out to the wilderness?*

2. *How long had Jesus been in the desert when the devil began tempting Him, and what were the temptations?*



Temptation is an incitement from the world, the flesh, or the devil to worship and serve them rather than the Creator.” ~Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia

3. *The word “tempter” in verse 3 is peirazo which means “to test; entice; scrutinize. Why do you think Satan used those three areas (question 2) to test Jesus, and what was Jesus’ response to them?*

4. *What does 1 John 2:15-17 say is a significant source of temptations? Give some specific examples of what that might look like for you and the people around you.*

5. *Read 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5 and Romans 12:1-2. How would these apply to our battle with temptation?*

6. *According to Jesus' example here in Matthew and Paul's instruction in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, how should we respond to temptation?*



James 1:1-14 says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.'" "In each instance when this verb peirazo is used, we must distinguish who the one who tempts is and then we shall understand whether the meaning is to endeavor to lead a person to fall, which is always the purpose of Satan as he tempts us, or whether it is God who never tricks us or deceives us or causes us to fall, but rather tests to prove our progress." The Word of Faith

7. *According to Luke 4:13-14, what effect did Jesus' wilderness experience have on Him?*

8. *Where does Jesus go when He leaves Nazareth? Find these places on the map and the distance between them. According to v. 25, people had come from all around the area to see Jesus. Find these areas on the map as well.*

9. *What disciples does He call in Chapter 4?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
