***GREATER THINGS*** in 2023

January 15, 2023

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**The Greater Kingdom**

**Private Preparation -** Matthew 4:1-11



*Be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

*1 Peter 5:8*

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

*Matthew 4:1*

**Temptation** and **Testing** are two sides of the same coin.

*Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no on.*

*James 1:13*

*And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.*

*Matthew 4:2*

**Fasting** is taking your eyes off the things of this world and focusing more on God.

Jesus’ lifetime and His period of fasting **prepared** Him for the temptations so He could pass the test.

The enemy seeks to cause us to **doubt** the word of God.

*And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”*

*Matthew 4:3*

*He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”*

*Genesis 3:1*

**Scripture** dispels the lies of Satan.

*But he answered, “It is written,” ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

*Matthew 4:4*

The enemy tempts us with **glory** for ourselves.

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”*

*Matthew 4:5-6*

Basic **exegesis** helps us to correctly apply scripture to our lives.

*Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

*Matthew 4:7*

Exegesis: the explanation or interpretation of a text, being led to conclusions by the text

1. Context around the verse.
2. Who was the verse written to, when, and why?
3. How does the meaning fit into the totality of scripture?

The enemy tempts us with the **attractiveness of this world.**

*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,*

*“‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.*

Jesus calls us to three big truths:

1. Live by **every** word that comes from the mouth of God.
2. Trust God **implicitly**.
3. Worship God and **only** God.
4. Open your **eyes.**

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*1 Peter 5:8*

1. Read your **Bible**.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

1. Be in **community.**

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*