

EPC and CVPC DAILY DEVOTIONAL – Sunday April 5th

Our devotions this week will be drawn from the Lord's Prayer.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.

Bible Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness 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."

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

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.'"

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

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

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

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

Bible Reading: James 4:7-10

Submit Yourselves to God

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Devotion Reflections

James 4v7b "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The story of Jesus's temptation in Matthew ch4 is basically a 'how-to' on resisting the devil. You can break down Jesus's technique to see how he quotes Scripture. You can analyse how Jesus is able to discern the lies in the devil's words. But maybe you don't fall down because you lack the skills. Maybe you fall down because you lack the will. Do you RESIST? Or do you just give in?

James 4v8a "Come near to God and he will come near to you."

Jesus says, "Pray like this ... deliver us from evil." What is prayer if it's not *coming near to God* like James commands? If you lack the will to resist evil, you will find that will in prayer. If you lack the strength to resist sin, you will find that strength in prayer. Jesus offers us every skill we need in the fight against sin when he teaches us how to PRAY.

Question: What temptation have you been giving in to lately?

Prayer points and church family members to pray for:

Del, Lindsay and Gary Tappin – Biloela

Jenny Turner – Biloela

Ben and Robyn Letts - Emerald

Louise Levick - Emerald

Mary Noy – Emerald

Jayden and Amy Hall – Emerald

Royale Zimpel – Monto

John and Sue Heit