

Sermon Notes – Interpreting the Bible – Matthew 4

To interpret the Bible correctly, you must read it as a servant. And a servant's job is to bless.

Read, Pray, Bless. Jesus one goal in life was to follow God, and because he followed God, He blessed the world.

Read Matthew 4:1-2 – Temptation at the Worst Time

Jesus doesn't face temptation well rested. He faces the Devil as we face the Devil – tired and worn out.

Lie # 1 – You should satisfy your desires

Read Matthew 4:3 – You Should Take Care Of Yourself First

When can I stop worrying about everyone else and just worry about myself for a change? We know this feeling.

- Nothing else matters because I'm uncomfortable.
- Nothing else matters because my feelings got hurt.
- Nothing else matters because I've got a headache, or a woman's on her period, or because I've got cancer.

Read Matthew 4:4 – God Knows What I Need

***Our desires are not filled by eating food.
Our desires are filled by following God.***

You have to sacrifice to bring someone a blessing.

Truth # 1 – You Should Serve Other's Needs

Heaven isn't having your own cloud or your own mansion or getting to live forever. Heaven is having close friends who care for each other in ways we never dreamed possible.

Lie # 2 – God Should Make It Easier

Read Matthew 4:5-6 – You Don't Need to Suffer

Satan tells a half truth. God would do anything for you. But it goes back to the first lie. God wants you to serve others.

***We are supposed to follow God,
not expect God to follow us.***

Read Matthew 4:7 – Don't Test God

Truth # 2 – A Life of Blessing is Hard

Lie # 3 – You Should Have Control

Read Matthew 4:8-9 – I'll Give You Control NOW!!

What would you give to be in control? That is pretty appealing. It is tempting. But what has God called us to do? Follow Him.

Read Matthew 4:10-11 – Get Away From Me, Satan!

Control doesn't bring peace. Control may stop the fighting, but it doesn't bring the fullness of peace.

Truth # 3 – God is in control. Your Job Is To Bless

Understand that you can't have everything you want.

Understand you will have to suffer.

Understand you don't get to be in control.

Read, pray, and bless. This is what it means to be a follower of Jesus.