

How Should Everyone Live?

International Bible Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday, May 4, 2014

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“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4—KJV).

“But Jesus answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”’” (Matthew 4:4—NRSV).

Before Moses turned the leadership of the Israelites over to Joshua, he reminded the Israelites that during their forty years of wilderness wandering God had tested them to know what was in their heart, “whether or not you would keep his commandments” (Deuteronomy 8:2). Moses said that God had humbled them and let them go hungry before He fed them manna in the wilderness in order to make them “understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 8:3). Just as the LORD tested the Israelites in the wilderness, Jesus, the Son of God, humbled himself and followed the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested. After forty days of fasting, Jesus was famished, and in His weakest state the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread instead of trusting and waiting for His heavenly Father to meet His physical needs. Jesus passed the test when He refused and quoted the Scripture that He intended to live by throughout His ministry. He would obey His Father and live “by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” After Jesus passed every test, His Father sent angels to wait on Him, similar to the way He gave manna to the Israelites in the wilderness. Throughout their lives the followers of Jesus will suffer temptations, just as the devil waited for more opportune times to test Jesus. The testing will show whether or not those who say they believe in Jesus will live by every word that has come from His mouth. — © Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for May 4, 2014 is from Deuteronomy 6:10-19 and Matthew 4:1-11. The “Thinking Further” Questions below are from these three lessons.

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:10 again. What difference would it have made if Moses had told the people, “If the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your ancestors . . .”? What difference would the word “If” have made?
2. What can happen to a people when they “forget the LORD”?
3. Should new Christians, who may be preparing to be baptized or join a church, be warned that the devil may tempt them to doubt God, Jesus, the Bible, and the fact that they are children of God?
4. What are some excuses that people give when they disobey God? If Jesus had chosen to sin when the devil tempted Him, could He have used any of these excuses?
5. What are some means or ways that believers can use to overcome temptations or tests of their faith?