

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina: Seeing the Devil Clearly Session 1

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus, You faced the tempter with the strength of Scripture and the certainty of the Father's love. Grant us the grace to hear Your Word with clarity and courage that we may see more clearly the path of obedience, humility, and trust expected of those who call themselves Your disciples. Amen.

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture and just focus on what the passage is saying. Take notice of any word, phrase, thought, or image that catches your attention.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet 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 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, you God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

(Matt 4:1-11)

What word or phrase caught your attention or what thought came to mind as you heard God's Word proclaimed?

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

Read the passage again, and this time focus on what speaks to you in this text and how it relates to your life.

You may use the following questions to guide your meditation if needed:

What might God be trying to say to you through that word, phrase or image that caught your attention initially?

What does Jesus' use of Scripture in the face of temptation reveal about how God invites you to confront the lies or pressures you face in your life?

The devil repeatedly attacks Jesus' identity. Where in your life do you feel tempted to doubt who you are in God's eyes, and how is the Lord inviting you to trust Him more deeply?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. What do you want to say to the Lord? Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture a final time, then rest in God's presence. Simply be with Him and listen for His voice. Allow His love and grace to fill you.

After a period of silent reflection conclude your time of prayer with the closing prayer below:

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we thank You for the Word
that has spoken to our hearts.
Through Jesus' victory in the desert,
You reveal that no temptation
is stronger than Your grace
and no darkness greater than Your light.
Strengthen us for the battles we face each day. Give
us the grace we need
to reply not on our own power
but on Your Living Word,
your Spirit dwelling within us,
and the example of Your Son
who conquers the evil one.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Living the Word (*Actio*)

Make Scripture Your First Response:

Like Jesus, let God's Word be your first response in the face of temptation by the Prince of Lies. Choose one short verse from Scripture (for example, *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*) and commit to using it whenever you face a moment of temptation, discouragement, or struggle.

Name Your Real Temptations:

Take time this week to name the *one* temptation that most consistently weakens your relationship with God. Not the surface-level behaviors, but the deeper spiritual pull beneath them, pride, envy, lust, selfishness, pleasure seeking, etc.

Once you have named it, bring that temptation into prayer. Speak it honestly before Christ. Then choose one concrete way to resist that temptation this week. Let Jesus' pattern in the desert guide you: reject the lie, rely on Scripture for the truth, and reaffirm your identity as God's beloved child.



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