

Matthew

The Gospel of

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

LESSON FOUR

MATTHEW 4

Day 1



Heavenly Father, incline my heart to you amidst the distractions around me. Help me to feed on your word and be satisfied.

- Read through chapter 4.
- In Chapter 4 Jesus proves himself to be the Son of God by his obedience to the Father's will for him. Read the chapter again and look for the ways Jesus is carrying out God's will for him.
- What is one truth in today's passage that moves your heart to praise, thanksgiving, confession, action or love for God?

Day 2- Matthew 4:1-11

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil according to verse 1?

-What are the implications of this?

Picture and Ponder: "'Wilderness" in Scripture has three uses, all found here [in Matt. 4]: it is the habitation of demons (Isa 13:21; 34:14 ["wild goats" = demons]; Matt 12:43; Rev 18:2); it is the place of testing, especially for Israel (Deut 6-8); and it is the place of divine comfort (1 Kgs 19:4-8; Rev 12:6, 14)." ¹

Off the Beaten Path: Look up the scripture passage in 1 Kings 19 about divine comfort in the wilderness from the Picture and Ponder. Why is divine comfort during wilderness times so sweet?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses in Revelation about Satan. What one word characterizes Satan?

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 20:3 The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while. (NLT)

2. What has Jesus been doing in the wilderness, and for how long, according to verse 2?

3. In verse 3, what is Satan trying to do by attacking Jesus' identity?

-How does Satan target Jesus' physical weakness?



Satan does not play fair. He kicks us when we're down. He exploits our sinful tendencies. He takes advantage of every weakness. He is a prowling lion looking for someone to devour (1 Pet. 5:8)

- ❖ What is a weak area in your life where you are tempted?

- ❖ How can you become stronger in this area?

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 says, *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to*

man. God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. What do these verses teach us about God and ourselves in regard to temptation?

- ❖ Jesus battled Satan and won! Because he knows what it is like to be weak and tempted you can turn to him for help. He is a compassionate Savior who helps us in our weakness. Reflect on these verses:

For we do not have a high priest (Jesus) who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet, without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

For Discussion: The word *tempt* can also be translated *test* (*it is the same word in the Greek*). We know that God does not tempt anyone to sin (James 1:13), but he does test. What is the difference between God testing and Satan tempting?

Old Testament Ties

The scripture Jesus quotes in answer to Satan is found in Deuteronomy where Moses was reminding the Israelites of their time in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

- In what ways does Jesus' wilderness experience reflect and differ from the Israelite's time in the wilderness?

- Why did Jesus have to be tested?
- What was at the heart of Satan's temptation? (See John 4:34 for help)

Heavenly Father, forgive me for so often putting my will above yours in little ways each day. Help me to desire and do your will above my own by living on every word that comes from you.



For forty days Jesus fed only on the word of God. How physically weak Jesus must have been, but how spiritually fortified! He battled with Satan and was victorious because, not only did he fight Satan with the truth of God's word, but also because he had lived out those very words in the wilderness.

Jesus used his time in the wilderness to depend totally on God and find sustenance in his Father— in complete contrast to the Israelites who complained bitterly and questioned God's love and provision.

God leads us into the wilderness to test our faith, to show us our weaknesses and to strengthen us spiritually, giving us the chance to live out the truths in his word, in order to prepare us for future battles and to bring him glory.

- ❖ How important is it to you (based on your actions) to fortify yourself spiritually— to feed on God's word and prayer daily? What correlation is there between this and your attitude of dependence on God or independence from God?
- ❖ During hard trials or even daily difficulties how are you tempted to abandon God's way of sacrificial love and go your own way of self-exaltation? How does viewing these trials and difficulties as God's tools to test and strengthen you help you persevere in God's ways?

- ❖ If you are some place in life you don't want to be, maybe God has led you to a wilderness. Find comfort in Jesus, ask him for help, look for his mercies. He has been there and been victorious! Instead of mistrusting God's motives and turning to him to complain, turn to his every word for sustenance and strength.

4. What tactics does Satan use in verses 5 and 6?

Old Testament Ties

On the second temptation Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16

You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Exodus 17:1-7 tells the story of the thirsty Israelites in the wilderness complaining to God and demanding water and testing God by asking if God was really with them instead of trusting him.

- Jesus came to earth to do God's will by giving his life. What would Jesus have shown if he had given in to the temptation of Satan?

5. Remember in chapter 2 we saw that Jesus came as the Eternal King and as God's servant. His *suffering* servant to be precise. In the third and final temptation (v.9) how was Satan tempting him in light of that mission?

Old Testament Ties

Jesus answers Satan one last time quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13

It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

Verse 14-15 goes on to say

You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

This was the very first commandment God gave his people (Ex. 20:3) and their epic failure to obey it century after century brought their destruction.

- How does Satan expose his own heart and the epic battle he is engaged in?
- How does much of your sin stems from the same desire?

6. How do verses 10a and 11 show who is in charge?

Day 3- Matthew 4:12-17

7. Verse 14 gives us the actual reason Jesus left Judea and took his ministry to Galilee. What is the reason?

Old Testament Ties

Verses 15-16 are another fulfillment passage in Matthew. It is from Isaiah 9:1-2

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shone.

- Isaiah 9 is a famous Messianic passage. Where does it say the Messiah will be?
- How is Jesus depicted in the Isaiah and Matthew passages?

- How are the people described in Matthew's quote?

- Isaiah says, *Galilee of the nations*. How does Matthew identify Galilee?

- What do you think this prophecy and fulfillment shows?

Father thank you so much that you are not exclusive - you reached out to the whole world with your redemption plan! Thank you for reaching out to me and bringing me into your family and Kingdom!

8. In verse 17, what has the dawning of the light brought?

-What is Jesus' message in light of coming of the kingdom?

Day 4- Matthew 4:18-22

9. What call does Jesus make in verse 19?

-What is one of the main pursuits of following Jesus?

-Is this one of your main pursuits as a follower of Jesus?

10. What 3 words appear in both verses 20 and 22?

-What are the implications/significance of each one?



Each of these three words—immediately, left, followed— are extreme. They are radical, demanding, intense words that leave no room for a casual or half-hearted response.

❖ In what ways are you half-hearted as you follow Jesus?

Jesus, you are the Eternal King and you are so worthy to be followed without reservation! Please help me as I follow, to obey you immediately and to leave behind the ways of this world and anything else you ask of me. Through your power please give me the strength and will to follow you in a way that magnifies your worth.

Picture and Ponder: "The creative force in discipleship is Jesus, and the task of every follower is to surrender to his active presence."²

11. When Jesus called, the men came. What do we learn about Jesus from this?

For Discussion: What are all the questions the brothers didn't ask? What does this show?



To follow Jesus is to be a disciple—a learner. To follow Jesus means taking on his way of life, adopting his values, seeing things the way he sees them. “The task of the disciple was to become as much like the rabbi as possible.”³ Being a disciple of Jesus was not a part time job—then or now. It is a way of life that requires sacrifice and prolonged intimacy in order to become like the teacher. And Jesus is no ordinary teacher, nor even an extraordinary teacher; he is the Son of God, the eternal King and he is calling you to follow him.

Reflect on the following thoughts:

- ❖ If you are not a follower of Jesus, will you respond now to Jesus’ call to follow him? What is holding you back from immediately following Jesus?

- ❖ Following Jesus is a life-long journey of walking in his footsteps, cooperating with his Spirit and abiding in his presence in order to become like him. What area of your life would you like to see Jesus transform this year? What will you leave behind in order to be with Jesus?

- ❖ If one of the main pursuits of following Jesus is to call others to follow him too, what are some ways you can move this to a top priority in your life if it is not already? Look for an opportunity this week to share the good news with someone.

- ❖ Pray now that God will help you to follow Jesus passionately; to embody his way of living and loving.

Day 5- Matthew 4:23-25

12. What are all the places mentioned in verses 23-25?

Picture and Ponder: As the promised eternal King, Jesus is spreading the ministry of his kingdom out to the original boundaries of the Davidic kingdom, with his focus in Galilee of the nations. But the global mission of God’s kingdom has already been

hinted at in the geography Matthew has presented– with wise men from the east and Jesus living in Egypt in the west. God’s promise to Abraham to bless the nations through him has begun with the birth and ministry of Jesus. Jesus’ message of the kingdom of God was not only for the Jews, but for the nations as well—all of humanity was included in God’s purpose in sending Jesus!

13. What are the three aspects of Jesus’ ministry according to verse 23?

14. What preview of the kingdom of God does Jesus’ authority bring to earth in verse 24?

15. What do we learn about what Jesus is like from verses 23-25?

Jesus you are a merciful and compassionate Savior! Please grow in me more compassion for the lost and hurting and broken and help me to walk in your footsteps, out of my comfort zone and into your active love for others.

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here. How will this truth impact the way you think and act?

¹ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 3488-3491). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

² Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 3939-3940). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

³ Spangler, Ann. Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus (p. 55). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

Copyright © 2020 Holli Worthington. This document may be reproduced for learning purposes but not for profit.