

Matthew Chapter Four

Testing the Saviour

I. Introduction

- A. Now we will watch as Satan Tests the _____ of the Messiah (4:1-11)
- B. After Jesus soundly defeats the devil's temptations, Jesus begins His Main Ministry which was " _____ " (4:12 – 7:29)

II. Study Lesson

A. Testing the Character of the Messiah (4:1-11)

1. The Holy Spirit (not Satan) directs/pushes Jesus into the wilderness (where John had lived most of his life)
2. The purpose of this act was to allow Satan to _____ Jesus – test Him, and find out what this " _____ " was made of. People need to know.
 - a. Could the Man part be tempted?
 - b. Could God be provoked to throw off the Man part?
 - c. Was the God part perfect, or did HE have even the slightest flaw?
 - d. Was the Man part perfect, or only as good as the First Adam was?
 - e. Satan had all the questions, and had all the weapons imaginable to try and ruin God's plan, and expose any limit of flaw in God's plan!
3. Jesus prepares Himself for the test by _____
 - a. The Meaning of Fasting
 - 1) To Resist. To hold fast in one spot. To resist the body's urge to eat, or demand its own way. Includes resisting pleasure and anything that would give the body a pre-eminence in the Christian's life.
 - 2) Not by resting, and eating well, and by relaxing
 - 3) Jesus weakened His flesh in preparation for His flesh to be tested – VERY opposite of what we might do in preparation for troubles!
 - 4) At the end of the 40 days, Jesus was VERY hungry
 - 5) He was hungry, weakened, and vulnerable.
 - 6) Satan waited to tempt Jesus until He was at His most vulnerable state. Satan is an opportunist. He uses opportunities well. When we are down, he visits us not to help us but to hurt us. He likes to knock on our doors when our cupboards have become empty. He likes to visit us when we are in the sick room, when we are physically weak. He likes to come to us when deficiency describes our situation, for it gives him advantage in tempting us. His temptation is always to eliminate the deficiency whatever it is, and to eliminate it the devil's way, not God's way. The devil would base our actions upon our needs, not upon God's will.
 - 7) Fasting is both an Old Testament and a New Testament activity
 - b. The Purpose of Biblical Fasting - Enables the Christian to have clear access to God (Isa 53:5-7)
 - 1) Fasting helps you learn to allow the Holy Spirit to dominate (lead) in life (Rom 8:14; Mt 4:1) by denying the body its place of pre-eminence.
 - 2) Involves having the right desires (Isa 58:5-7):
 - 3) To afflict your soul (Isa 58:5; Ps 69:10).
 - 4) To humble us - by afflicting your body (Isa 58:5; Ps 109:24), and reminding you just how frail you really are (Ps 39:4)
 - 5) To become acceptable to the Lord (Isa 58:5; Cf Rom 8:7).
 - 6) To loose the bands of sin around us that attach to the dominance of the flesh (Isa 58:6; Rom 7:18)
 - 7) To loose the bands around others who are oppressed as well (Isa 58:6)
 - 8) To focus your energies on others instead of self all the time (Isa 58:7)

- c. Why Fast?
- 1) For Self – For YOUR Sanctification so that you can rightly serve God. Involves giving up food so that you can learn to get a little closer to Christ
 - 2) For Saints - The troubles that they might be in (Gal 6:1,2)
 - 3) For Sinners - Their Salvation – God needs us really involved
- d. The When of Biblical Fasting Determine that a fast is needed – it is not always needed
- 1) When regular prayer fails (Mt 17:21; Mk 9:29)
 - 2) When prompted by the Holy Spirit (Mt 4:1)
 - 3) When full of the world and sin
 - 4) When making big decisions like Jesus (Lk 6:12,13) – marriage, moving, ministry and calling (Acts 13:1-4)
 - 5) When under great spiritual conflict and temptation like Job (Job 1:20; 2:8; 2:13)
- e. The Method of Biblical Fasting.
- 1) Designate a specific period of time to seek God wholly in your spirit (Jn 4:24).
 - 2) Stay completely away from food and pleasure (1 Cor 7:5)
 - 3) Continue to work at your job, and appear to others in a normal way - you are not supposed to fast so that other people can know that you are fasting (Matt 6:16) - that is pride!
 - 4) Develop a completely yielded spirit as your flesh fights you
 - a) Hungering and thirsting after righteousness (Matt 5:6)
 - b) Seeking God's kingdom first instead of physical things (Matt 6:33)
 - c) Yielding your life to Christ for His service (Rom 6:13; 12:1,2)
 - d) Expect by faith God to bless your search for a closer walk with Him (Matt 6:16-18; Jer 29:13)
- f. Some Examples of Biblical Fasting.
- 1) Moses - 40 days, and then 40 more days (Dt 9:18; Ex 34:28)
 - 2) Elijah - 40 days (1 Kings 19:8)
 - 3) Daniel - 21 days (Dan 10:1-3)
 - 4) Jesus - 40 days (Luke 4:2)
 - 5) Saul of Tarsus - 3 days seeking God's will (Acts 9:9)
- g. The Fruit/Results of Biblical Fasting (Isa 58:8-12) - Spiritual fruits!
- 1) Spiritual oppression will be broken (Isa 58:8)
 - 2) Health will be restored
 - 3) Spiritual power will be yours
 - 4) God's glory will protect your rear as you go forward for Him
 - 5) You will have answered prayer
 - 6) You will have conquered sin and darkness in your life
 - 7) The Lord will guide and satisfy you - spiritually!
 - 8) Your spiritual efforts will be successful
 - 9) Your children will continue what you begin for God - it will endure into the next generation
 - 10) God will be proud of you, and people will know you as the one who repaired the breach between God and your generation!
4. Satan asks a question – same question three times, “*If you really ARE the Son of God...*”
5. Satan then attempts to get Jesus to _____ it by miracles
- a. Turn stones into bread – Jesus' flesh would have felt that temptation (Mt 4:3-4)
- 1) Jesus responds with something more true than His feelings of hunger, and more satisfying than bread – the word of God
 - 2) Jesus, as a Man had the words of God memorised, and relied on those words

- 3) Quotes from _____ Notice the italicised word “_____” in Deuteronomy 8:4
 - 4) Jesus supplies the understood word in Matthew 4:4
 - 5) Translation Principle: The italicized words are necessary and are just as _____ as the rest of the words!
 - 6) Note that Jesus COULD HAVE turned the stones into bread, but He CHOOSES not to. Victory over sin begins with a _____ to reject Satan’s lie, and accept and obey God’s word!
- b. Fly down off the highest pinnacle of the Temple (Mt 4:5-7)
- 1) Jesus is offered the chance to prove His Diety by just gently dropping off of the temple right into the crowd of people at the bottom. That will get the Jew’s attention! Jesus will be readily accepted, on the spot!
 - 2) Satan even has a Scripture to prove that Jesus is even supposed to do such a thing
 - 3) But Jesus rightly divides the word of truth, knowing that one day at the SECOND coming, He will drop out of the sky, but not today!
 - 4) Jesus responds that even though God may promise us something, we should not “push” Him to keep that promise unless it is His will (Dt 6:16). We might be allowed to fall hard if we just believe indiscriminately every promise in the Bible – when they all might not apply to us!
 - 5) Satan’s anti-christ however WILL do this act (of dropping out of the sky) to prove that HE is the real Messiah.
 - 6) As a matter of fact...
 - a) The anti-christ will supply bread miraculously for people to prove that he is the real Messiah.
 - b) The anti-christ will actually float down out of space, or at least from the atmosphere
- c. Accept a short-cut to the Kingdom (Mt 4:8-11)
- 1) Which mountain Satan takes Jesus to is not known. It seems to just be a place where Satan is able to show Jesus every kingdom in a flash (Lk 4:5)
 - 2) Satan shows not only the buildings, but the power, and the glory of each kingdom
 - 3) Asks for a simple sign of worship
 - a) To fall down before Satan
 - b) To kiss Satan – truest sign of worship
 - 4) Jesus rebukes Satan “get thee hence” means GET AWY FROM ME! (Cf Mt 16:23; 1Pet 5:8,9)
 - 5) Then Jesus quotes a Scripture greater than His temptation (Dt 6:13)
- d. It is at this time that Satan actually is forced to leave!
- 1) See James 4:7 where it is promised that if you submit yourself to God, and obey Him, you can resist the devil and he HAS to flee!
 - 2) Realize that Satan and his devils may leave you alone for a season, but they won’t leave you alone forever. They live to destroy you, so you must always be prepared (Eph 6:10-18)

B. Jesus Begins His Main Ministry in Galilee (4:12-17)

1. Jesus stays clear of the troubles in Jerusalem (prophets always _____ in Jerusalem [Lk 13:33])
2. Visits His hometown of Nazareth
3. Then stays in Capernaum, which was near to two small tribes
4. Fulfils Isaiah 9:1,2

5. Note the differences in the quotation and filfillment

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| <p>Isa 9:1,2 Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.</p> | <p>Mat 4:15,16 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, <i>(skips this part)</i> by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.</p> |
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6. Principles of translation and interpretation

- a. Partial quoting is allowed
- b. Provided enhanced meanings – all under the inspiration of the Author (2Tim 3:16)
 - 1) Isaiah – The people that walked...
 - 2) Matthew – The people which SAT... (stuck)
 - 3) Isaiah – the nations
 - 4) Matthew – the Gentiles

7. Jesus's teaching and life is called a "_____ " to not only the Jews, but to the Gentiles

C. Jesus Begins Teaching About the Kingdom of Heaven (4:17)

1. His Main Ministry - _____ (4:18 – 7:29)

- a. His primary ministry was Teaching and Preaching
- b. His secondary ministry was proving His Messiahship via miracles
- c. His ultimate act will be substitution as the Lamb of God, not as the Messiah of God

2. Jesus' Primary Lessons. Quite a huge set of topics!

- a. Teaching about Life and How to Handle Troubles
- b. Teaching on the Importance of the Law
- c. Teaching on Murder
- d. Teaching on Adultery and Lust
- e. Teaching on Divorce
- f. Teaching on Swearing and Keeping Your Promises
- g. Teaching on not Always Paying-Back Evil for Evil
- h. Teaching on Conquering Your Enemies
- i. Jesus Teaches on How to Give Your Money to Good Causes
- j. Jesus Teaches How to Pray
- k. Jesus Teaches on Fasting When Praying
- l. Teaching About Investing in Heavenly Rewards
- m. Teaching on Worry
- n. Jesus Teaches About Pre-Judging People
- o. Jesus Teaches More About Prayer
- p. The Golden Rule
- q. Christ's Way is Not an Easy Way - But it is the Right Way
- r. Warning About False Prophets
- s. Jesus Warns About False Believers

D. Jesus Begins to Call Out His Disciples (4:18-22)

1. Jesus Calls _____ and _____ his brother
 - a. See also Luke 5:2-11
 - b. Commands them to "_____!"
 - c. Promises to make them into "_____ " – catchers of MEN
 - d. They had no idea what He was referring to! Not until the day of Pentecost!
 - e. Yet they obeyed by faith, and immediately left their nets, and their father's business, just to be with Jesus!

2. Jesus Calls _____ and his brother _____
 - a. The sons of Zebedee
 - b. Quick spirited, and fighters – not gentlemen, and nice guys!
 - c. They too immediately left their nets
3. There are more details, and more men will follow Jesus, but these two sets of brothers start discipleship rolling!
4. Principle: Whoever you are, and whatever your makeup, follow the Lord Jesus and kick the devil in the face, instead of being his puppet!

E. Jesus Begins Teaching About the Kingdom of Heaven (4:23-25)

1. The _____
 - a. Referring to the Gospel of the kingdom of Heaven
 - b. Not the same as the Gospel of the Kingdom of God
 - c. The kingdom of heaven is preached by angels, the kingdom of God is NOT
 - 1) Acts 10:22, the angel did not preach, just told him to call for a MAN who would preach it)
 - 2) Rev 14:6 an angel DOES preach a gospel, but it is the good news of the end of the Tribulation
2. Preached to the Jews – preaching from out of the Old Testament
3. This Gospel included _____ and _____ – not all Gospels include miracles
4. His fame spreads rapidly, even into Syria, and Jews from outside of Israel proper come to meet Jesus
 - a. They bring their sick and dying
 - b. The demon possessed
 - c. The palsy
 - d. Jesus healed them all!
5. Great numbers of people began to follow Him
 - a. None of them were born again, or saved at all yet. They were just followers. Believers, but not like you and I are. They still have to understand the _____ and the _____ (1Cor 15:1-4).
 - b. From the entire area that used to be Israel, not just from Judaea (_____)! He drew people from the entire area back to God!
 - 1) Galilee
 - 2) Decapolis
 - 3) Even from Jerusalem
 - 4) Jordan area
 - 5) And beyond Jordan

III. Study Questions for Matthew Chapter Four