

- *No Bible study on 12/24 or 12/31.*
- PRAY
- READ Matthew 4

Theme: “Behold your King is coming to you” (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5)

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THIS EVENING:

- COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BECOME BREAD (Matthew 4:3-4//Luke 4:3-4; cf. John 4:34)
- IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD...THROW YOURSELF DOWN (Matthew 4:5-7//Luke 4:9-12; cf. Matthew 26:52-54)
- ALL THESE I WILL GIVE YOU IF YOU FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME (Matthew 4:8-10//Luke 4:5-8; cf. John 12:31; 14:30; 2 Cor.4:4)
- ANGELS MINISTER TO JESUS (Matthew 4:12//Luke 4:13//Mark 1:13)
- JOHN IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND JESUS BEGINS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM (Matthew 4:12-17)
- THE FIRST DISCIPLES (vv.18-22)
- INTRODUCTION TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matthew 4:23-5:2)

SUMMARY OF MATTHEW 4:1-11: The power of the Spirit in the life of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17) was to bring Jesus to the cross so that He might die for our sins (Matthew 1:21). Jesus’ baptism of the Spirit was so that He might deliver us from our great enemy Satan. Jesus was baptized with the water of John, so that He might be baptized with the fire of judgment for our sin. Jesus was baptized by John so that He might baptize His people with the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: All of Jesus’ answers to Satan come from **Deuteronomy 6-8** – the passages recounting God’s faithfulness to Israel in the wilderness (see esp. Deut.8).

- Mt.4:4//Deut.8:3 (“He humbled you and let you be hungry...”)
- Mt.4:7//Deut.6:16
- Mt.4:10//Deut.6:13

Does Matthew make any distinction between “living in the Spirit” versus the law of God?

COMMAND THAT THESE STONES BECOME BREAD (Matthew 4:3-4//Luke 4:3-4; cf. John 4:34)

Why does Satan tempt Jesus with the words, “If you are the Son of God”? (vv.3,6)

NOTE: “[T]he “if” in the Greek text is in a construction that assumes Jesus’ sonship is true. It is an “if” of assumption, rather than doubt. It is the kind of “if” that we use with one another every day. For example, my wife might tell me, “I’m going to the grocery store.” And I might respond, “If you’re going to the grocery store, please pick up a can of coffee” (David MacLeod, “The Temptation of Christ”; *Emmaus Journal Volume 10* Page 14-15).

What is the “temptation” of Satan’s challenge in verse 3?

Was there anything inherently sinful in turning stones to bread? (Mt.4:4) If not, then what was the test?

If Jesus had turned stones into bread, why might this have kept Him from the cross?

Is there ever a time when we should put our will above God's will? Is there ever a time when we should put our "needs" above God's will?

What portion of Scripture does Jesus quote from? (v.4)

IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD...THROW YOURSELF DOWN (Matthew 4:5-7//Luke 4:9-12; cf. Matthew 26:52-54)

*Mark you this Bassanio,
The Devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.
An evil soul, producing holy witness,
Is like a villain with a smiling cheek,
A goodly apple rotten at the heart.
O, what a goodly outside falsehood hath!*
(Antonio speaking in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, Act 1, Scene 3)

What is the nature of Satan's second temptation? (v.6)

It's hard for us to appreciate the force of this temptation. How was Jesus going to demonstrate His trust? How did Jesus know that He could personally trust His Father?

What portion of Scripture does Satan quote from? (Matthew 4:6)

What portion of Scripture does Satan not quote from?

What portion of Scripture does Jesus quote from? (v.7)

Martin Luther (1483–1546), the great reformer, suffered great depression due to the attacks of Satan. He described some of his bouts with the Evil One. "When I go to bed, the Devil is always waiting for me. When he begins to plague me, I give him this answer: 'Devil, I must sleep. That's God's command, "Work by day. Sleep by night." So go away.' If that doesn't work and he brings out a catalog of sins, I say, 'Yes, old fellow, I know all about it. And I know some more you have overlooked. Here are a few extra. Put them down.' If he still won't quit and presses me hard and accuses me as a sinner, I scorn him and say, 'St. Satan, pray for me. Of course you have never done anything wrong in your life. You alone are holy. Go to God and get grace for yourself. If you want to get me all straightened out, I say, 'Physician, heal thyself.'"

Quoted in David J. MacLeod; "The Temptation of Christ" *Emmaus Journal Volume 10* Page 41)

ALL THESE I WILL GIVE YOU IF YOU FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME (Matthew 4:8-10//Luke 4:5-8; cf. John 12:31; 14:30; 2 Cor.4:4)

*These kingdoms are all mine, and thing shall be
If thou wilt worship me.
-Longfellow*

What is the nature of this third temptation (cf. Matthew 28:18)?

How does this third temptation differ from the first two? (vv.8-9)

What portion of Scripture does Jesus quote from? (v.10)

The striking feature about this passage is the contrast between the King of kings response and Pilate's! "Christ defeated the strategy of Satan by quoting God's revealed truth. Pilate might disdainfully and scornfully say, 'What is truth?' but truth, as Christ so vividly illustrated, conquers Satan" (Kik, *Church and State*).

Why does Jesus resist the devil with "it is written"? Why doesn't He use some other means?

What are we to learn from Jesus' resisting the temptation of Satan as we apply this passage to our own lives?

ANGELS MINISTER TO JESUS (Matthew 4:12//Luke 4:13//Mark 1:13)

JOHN IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND JESUS BEGINS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM (Matthew 4:12-17)

THE FIRST DISCIPLES (vv.18-22; cf. Matthew 10:35-37)

"Fishing" – one of the primary callings of all disciples.

The verb follow occurs some 25x in Matthew (4:20,22,25; 8:1,10,19,22,23; 9:9,19,27; 10:38; 12:15; 14:13; 16:24; 19:2,21,27,28; 20:29,34; 21:9; 26:58; 27:55).

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matthew 4:23-5:2)

FOR NEXT WEEK: READ MATTHEW 5-7

What are the similarities between the Sermon on the Mount and the book of James?

Are the demands of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount impossible?

Are parts of the Sermon on the Mount "impractical"?

What is the relevance of the Sermon on the Mount for our lives?

What is the relationship of the Sermon on the Mount to Moses and the Old Testament?