

Matthew 4 OUTLINE

Temptation of Jesus (v.1-11)

- Jesus LED by Spirit (temptation doesn't mean we're not being led by Spirit!)
- Satan "IF you are the Son of God" (mocking and calling identity into question, planting seeds of doubt)
- Jesus quotes Scripture, doesn't engage in convo, uses Scripture as authority. Satan uses Scripture too! TWISTS it (just as he did in the beginning with God's Word) and manipulates it for his own purposes. Wow!
- Tempts Jesus to use his power for his own gain, to show off, to get glory for himself.

Jesus begins His ministry (v.12-17)

- Fulfills Is. 9:1-2
- PREACH "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus calls His first disciples (v. 18-22)

- Brothers: Simon Peter and Andrew
- Brothers: James & John
- The call: "FOLLOW me, I will make you fishers of men."
- Both sets IMMEDIATELY: LEFT nets and boat and father and FOLLOWED Jesus.

Jesus ministers to many (PREACH & PROVE) (v. 23-25)

3-fold ministry of Jesus:

1. Teaching
2. Proclaiming the gospel
3. Healing EVERY disease and EVERY affliction (sickness)

RESULT: Fame spread through all Syria SO THAT they brought ALL the:

- sick
- afflicted with diseases and pains
- oppressed by demons
- epileptics
- paralytics

AND HE HEALED THEM.

Result --> Great crowds followed!

Matthew 4: SUMMARY and Interpretation

After Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Holy Spirit, into the wilderness *in order* to be tempted by the devil and tested. It was God's Spirit that allowed this to happen, in order to prove His faith. (Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. Heb. 5:8) Satan taunts Jesus using "IF you are God's Son" -- attempting to call into doubt Jesus' identity. He does the same with us today. When Jesus responds, He doesn't engage or start to argue His case with Satan, He simply quotes the powerful Word of God. Satan doesn't quit though. He tempts Him again, this time even *Satan* quotes scripture--he is attempting to twist and misinterpret scripture in order to make Jesus sin and fail. Jesus doesn't take the bait. He responds *correctly* using Scripture because He understood the intent and heart of God's will. After three times of this, Satan finally leaves Him alone, and angels come and minister to Him. He'd passed the test! He was no ready to enter His public ministry. (Also see Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13 for parallel versions of this same story)

Before Jesus even begins to preach, there is already persecution. He had heard about the arrest of John the Baptist (his cousin) and withdraws into a quieter area to begin ministering, probably to avoid causing too much of a ruckus right away. This also fulfills a prophecy in Isaiah, showing yet again that Jesus is the promised Messiah. His message is simple: "Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This is the beginning of Jesus ushering in His Kingdom.

Next, Jesus begins to gather His disciples. First, He calls two brothers: Peter and Andrew, who are fishermen. He says to follow Him and He'll make them fishers of men. *Immediately* they leave everything behind and follow Jesus. Next, Jesus calls James and John, two other brothers who are fishermen. Immediately they also leave everything behind, including their father, and follow Jesus. (Also see Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:2-11, John 1:40-42 for parallel versions of this story)

Now, with his first four disciples, Jesus begins moving throughout all Galilee and ministering in a 3-fold way: By 1) Teaching, 2) Proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and 3) Healing every disease and every affliction. The result was that his fame spread (ya think?!). They brought Him *all* of their sick, those afflicted with diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics -- *and He healed them*. Great crowds followed Him from far and wide. (Lots of cross-references for this!)