

Matthew 4

Temptation of the King; Apostles of the King

I. Summary.

In this chapter we read about Christ being tempted. The very fact that we can read in the New Testament about Jesus being tempted ought to be a cause of rejoicing to you and me. Were it *not so*, this comforting passage would not be in our Bibles: **For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin** (Hebrews 4:15, NKJV). Verses 1-11 give us the record of that temptation. As can be seen from the notes below, there is value in observing Satan's *modus operandi* as he sought to defeat Jesus, in that he is just as determined to tempt you and me. The last part of this chapter (12-25) tells us about Jesus selecting certain ones for a special opportunity—to be with Him continually for a period of time and then to be given the awesome responsibility of spreading the saving message throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20). Some of these specially selected men were fishermen; Jesus is about to turn them into fishers of men.

II. Outline.

1. Temptation of the King (Matthew 4:1-11).
2. Apostles of the King (12-25).

III. Chronology Notes.

Bible Period: Life of Christ

IV. Interesting Words. Taken from *Word Meanings in the New Testament*, by Ralph Earle, p. 3.

1. **It is written** (v. 4)... The Greek has *gegraptai*, the perfect passive of *grapho*, "write." The perfect tense expresses completed action and a permanent state resulting from it. So the word could justifiably be translated: "It has been written and still stands written." It is a strong affirmation of the unchanging character of the Scriptures. It should be noted that Jesus met every temptation of Satan by answering with Scripture. He used only one weapon, the same as we have: **"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"** (Ephesians 6:17).
2. **Esaias** (v. 14)... This is the Greek form. But whenever familiar OT names appear in the NT, it is more logical to give the Hebrew, not Greek, form, so that their identity can be readily recognized. So here it should be "Isaiah."
3. **Mending** (v. 21)... The verb is *katartizo*. It means "put in order, restore to its former condition." Arndt and Gingrich say that with nets it means "by cleaning, mending, folding together" (p. 417). They were "preparing their nets" (NIV) for the next day. Same word is used in Galatians 6:1, translated RESTORE, DRL.
4. **Fame** (v. 24)... The Greek word *akoe* comes from the verb *akouo*, "hear." So the noun means "that which is heard." Today we call this "news."

5. **Lunatic** (v. 24)... Again "those which were lunatic" is all one word in Greek, *seleniazomenous*—literally, "moonstruck." The people of that time thought that epileptic seizures were caused by overexposure to the moon. The correct translation is "epileptics."

V. Notes to Aid Understanding.

----**Verses 1-11.** "The reason for this showdown is not stated by Matthew, but several possibilities seem likely. First, if Jesus is to 'destroy the works of the devil' (1 John 3:8), He must prove Himself stronger than the devil (12:29). If He is to be man's champion He must be tested thoroughly to see whether He is equal to the task set before Him. Second, temptation helped qualify Christ to be our High Priest (Hebrews 2:16-18; 4:15-16). Because He knows the strength of the foe, He can sympathize with our situation (Hebrews 5:1-9). Third, Christ's example teaches us how to resist the devil (James 4:7). If we do what He did, we too can put the devil to flight. Fourth, the temptation provides strategic insight into the devil's methods (2 Corinthians 2:11)—'The greater the knowledge of the enemy, the greater the potential for victory' (Douglas MacArthur). In tempting Christ, Satan revealed information about his tactics; information we can use to our advantage (Ephesians 6:11)" [Kenneth L. Chumbley, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 65].

----**Verses 1-2.**

"The Temptation of Christ highlights numerous parallels between Jesus and OT Israel. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 says that the Lord led Israel into the wilderness to be tested for 40 years. Similarly **Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness** to be tested 40 days. The three temptations Jesus faced parallel the tests Israel faced in the wilderness, and every Scripture that Jesus quoted in response to His temptations were drawn from God's message to the Israelites about their wilderness test (Ct 6-8). Israel failed its tests, but Jesus passed His and in doing so 'fulfilled all righteousness' (Matthew 3:15). Thus He is qualified to create a new spiritual Israel. Several features of Matthew confirm Jesus' intention to gather a new people for God. He chose 12 disciples to parallel Israel's 12 tribes. This was a conscious effort to identify His followers as the new Israel" [*HCSB Study Bible*, p. 1615].

----**Verse 3.** "The **stones** that littered the wilderness floor resembled small round loaves of **bread** in shape, size, and color" [*HCSB Study Bible*, p. 1615].

----**Verse 4.** "Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. His reference to **every word that comes from the mouth of God** recalls the OT theme that God's words are not idle, but are to be received as commands. Deuteronomy 8:1,6 emphasize the need to obey God's commands, and Deuteronomy 8:1 teaches that man lives by following God's commandments just as 8:3 says that man lives by what comes from God's mouth (Deuteronomy 6:24). Thus the OT text which Jesus quoted teaches that obeying God is more important than being well-fed. Israel struggled to learn this truth (Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:4-5). In contrast, Jesus hungered for righteousness more than bread and thirsted for obedience more than water. He urged His disciples to have the same priority (Matthew 5:6)" [*HCSB Study Bible*, p. 1615].

---**Verse 16.** **The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light...** "A great light springing up in a dark place might fitly represent any great teacher or reformer; but the light here predicted by the prophet is located in the very land which witnessed the

chief part of the ministry of Jesus, and here no great light but Jesus ever appeared. The enemies of Jesus themselves declared that 'out of Galilee ariseth no prophet' (John vii.52). It is certain, then, that Isaiah's prediction was fulfilled, as Matthew affirms, in Jesus" [J.W. McGarvey, *The New Testament Commentary, Volume 1—Matthew & Mark*, p. 47].

----**Verse 23. And Jesus went about all Galilee...** "This paragraph contains a general statement of the journeying and labors of Jesus in Galilee, the details of which are given in subsequent chapters. it shows that in the course of these journeying He visited every part of Galilee" [McGarvey, p. 48].

VI. Applications from the Text.

----**Verse 1. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted...** "The two expressions 'driveth' (Mark 1:12) and 'led up' (Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1) show that Jesus was drawn to the wilderness by an irresistible impulse, and did not go thither of His own volition (Ezekiel 40:2) [quoted from *Fourfold Gospel*, DRL]. He was brought into temptation, but did not seek it. He was led of God into temptation, but was not tempted of God. God may bring us into temptation (Matthew 6:13; 26:31; Job 1:12; 2:6), and may make temptation a blessing unto us, tempering it to our strength, and makng us strongere by the victory over it (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2,12) but God Himself never temptes us (James 1:13)" [Eddie Whitten, in *A Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Matthew*, pp., 165-66].

----**Verse 8. Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain...** "Between the two records [Matthew's and Luke's, DRL], Jesus is taken up into a mountain high enough that he could see all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them and this was done in a moment of time. Such circumstances would seem to demand the conclusion that the temptation involves a vision designed to offer Jesus a quick and easy way to become the king of the world. Where would be His throne? Not on the earth! Peter tells us it will melt with fervent heat. Those who teach and believe that the Lord will set up a literal, material kingdom will be just as disappointed in Jesus as were the Jews of His day." [Ibid., 174].

----**Verse 9. All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me...** "The spirit of Satan's temptation of Jesus in this respect is alive in every generation. Human vanity is a vulnerable access to the heart. Satan is aware of every failing of man, and he appeals to the weakest moment and the weakest flaw in one's character. Even though he could not succeed with the mighty Son of God, Satan is not dismayed. he still offers to the spiritual novice or weakling the succulent morsel of "compromise" to create in the mind the illusions of grandeur such as he placed before Jesus. It is only by the commitment and spiritual maturity of those who can discern the ultimate plight of Satan and his followers that the faithful child of God can resist the temptation Satan places before him. In the church of our Lord, there are untold thousands who stand in jeopardy of losing their souls to the call of materialism." [Ibid., 175].

----**Verse 18. ...for they were fishermen...** "...these men were fishermen. It has been pointed out by many scholars that the good fisherman must possess these very qualities which will turn him into the good fisher of men. (1) He must have **patience**. He must learn to wait patiently until the fish will take the bait. It is but rarely in

preaching or in teaching that we will see quick results. We must learn to wait. (2) He must have **perseverance**. He must learn never to be discouraged, but always to try again. The good preacher and teacher must not be discouraged when nothing seems to happen. (3) He must have **courage**. The good preacher and teacher must be well aware that there is always a danger in telling men the truth. The man who tells the truth more often than not takes his reputation and his life into his hands. (4) He must have **an eye for the right moment**. The wise fisherman knows well that there are times when it is hopeless to fish. The good preacher and teacher chooses his moment. There are times when men will welcome the truth, and times when they will resent the truth. The wise preacher and teacher knows that there is a time to speak and a time to be silent. (5) The wise fisherman must **keep himself out of sight**. The wise preacher and teacher will always seek to present men, not with himself, but with Jesus Christ. His aim is to fix men’s eyes, not on himself, but on that figure beyond.”

VII. Quiz.

True or False

- 01. _____ Isaiah prophesied about the LIGHT of truth coming to Galilee.
- 02. _____ Satan quoted Scripture to Jesus.
- 03. _____ Matthew indicates that Jesus *wanted to* be tempted by the devil.
- 04. _____ After the temptation, the devil ministered to Jesus.
- 05. _____ James and John were busy when Jesus found them.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

- 06. _____ The number of days Jesus fasted was: (a) 3; (b) 40; (c) 7.
- 07. _____ Which of these is NOT near Capernaum: (a) Zebulun; (b) Naphtali; (c) Judea.
- 08. _____ The number of times Jesus said—IT IS WRITTEN: (a) 7; (b) 12; (c) 3.
- 09. _____ That which Peter and Andrew left was their: (a) nets; (b) pride; (c) knowledge.
- 10. _____ NOT mentioned as making up the multitudes who followed Jesus was people from: (a) Galilee; (b) Jerusalem; (c) Egypt.

Fill in the Blanks

- 11. The first temptation, as recorded by Matthew, involved turning _____ to _____.
- 12. One word Satan used in all three temptations was: _____.
- 13. Jesus heard something about John. What was it? He had been _____ into _____.
- 14. _____ a _____ into the _____ is the activity Jesus saw when walking by the sea.
- 15. _____, _____, and _____ is what Jesus went about doing in Galilee.

Each Question is worth 7 Points
My Score is: _____
Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Matthew 3 Questions... 1 False, 7; 2 True, 17; 3 True, 3; 4 True, 10; 5 True, 13; 6 God, 17; 7 John, 1; 8 Pharisees & Sadducees, 7-8; 9 John, 7; 10 Jesus, 11; 11 wilderness, Judea, 1; 12 Wrath, 7; 13 gathered, burned up, 12; 14 cut/hewn down, thrown/cast, fire, 10; 15 fulfill, righteousness, 15.

VIII. Seek-A-Word.

W	P	N	E	H	T	T	H	D	P	H
O	D	E	I	O	L	W	I	I	R	V
K	A	T	O	A	D	E	L	A	E	H
C	E	T	I	P	G	S	F	S	A	A
I	R	I	M	L	L	A	U	T	C	N
S	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	H	D
V	T	W	D	C	G	S	S	R	E	F
H	P	O	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	J
N	M	L	N	M	O	D	E	V	I	L
E	E	L	I	E	R	E	G	I	O	N
H	T	O	K	O	D	G	N	G	S	B
W	H	F	O	R	T	Y	A	L	S	W

AGAIN	ANGELS	BREAD
BROTHER	CAME	DEVIL
DISEASE	FOLLOW	FORTY
GALILEE	GIVE	HAND
HEALED	JESUS	KINGDOM
LEFT	LORD	PEOPLE
PREACH	REGION	SAID
SICK	STONE	TEMPT
THEN	WHEN	WRITTEN

IX. Crossword Puzzle.

Matthew 4 (KJV/NKJV)														
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8														9
											10			
				11										
						12								
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14														

<u>ACROSS</u>	<u>DOWN</u>
0 2 Jesus began to do this.	0 1 Great ____ followed Jesus.
0 5 James and John left ____.	0 3 After Jesus left Nazareth He lived here.
0 6 Jesus was doing this when he saw Peter & Andrew.	0 4 From that ____ Jesus began to preach.
0 8 Jesus promised to make some disciples ____ of men.	0 7 Temptation site at the temple.
1 2 Where Jesus taught.	0 9 John the Baptizer had been taken here.
1 3 Simon Peter's brother.	1 0 Satan tempted Jesus to make bread from them.
1 4 Jesus' message.	1 1 The Lord God is the only one we are to ____.