

Matthew 4

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- Jesus
Matthew 4:17

PREVIEW: In Matthew 4, we see Jesus righteously handle the tempter, begin His ministry, and begin calling His disciples.

PRAY: Father, as we study how Jesus handled Satan in the wilderness, please teach me how to deal with temptation in my own life.

Journal your prayer here:

Matthew 4 Outline:

First Temptation - Read Matthew 4:1-4

Second Temptation - Read Matthew 4:5-7

Third Temptation - Read Matthew 4:8-11

Jesus Begins His Ministry - Read Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus Calls His First Disciples - Read Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus Ministers in Galilee - Read Matthew 4:23-25

First Temptation - Read Matthew 4:1-4

1. After Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3, He was led directly into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Who led Jesus (v. 1)?

2. **PRODUCE:** The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Read Deuteronomy 8:2-5, and explain why God might lead us into the wilderness.

3. The temptations of Jesus were preceded by a time of fasting. How long did Jesus fast, and what was his physical condition when the tempter came to Him (v. 2)?

4. **PROPOUND:** Jesus fasted for forty days and nights; afterward, He was hungry. How hungry do you think He was?

5. The tempter, another name for Satan, made an appeal to Jesus' physical appetite because of His physical condition. What was that appeal, and why would it be a temptation (v. 3)?

6. What was Jesus' response to this temptation? Read Hebrews 5:8. What did Jesus learn through the temptations? (See also Philippians 2:8 and Hebrews 2:18.)

7. **PROCEED:** Matthew 4:11 says, "Then the devil left Him." Read James 4:7-10. What do we need to do to make the devil leave us?

Second Temptation - Read Matthew 4:5-7

8. The second temptation was an appeal to personal gain. Jesus could make a display of showmanship by jumping from the pinnacle of the temple for all to see, knowing that He wouldn't be hurt because the angels would "bear Him up," "lest he dash His foot against a stone." What verses did the devil quote in this temptation (v. 6)?

9. Carefully compare Satan's quotation of this verse (v. 6) with the actual verse. What's missing, and why is it a significant omission?

10. What was Jesus' response to this temptation (v. 7)?

11. The devil misquoted the Scripture during this temptation. Why is it important to ensure that we check the Scriptures quoted to us? (See Acts 17:11, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 1 John 4:1, 2 John 1:7, and Revelation 12:9.)

Third Temptation - Read Matthew 4:8-11

12. In the third temptation, the devil appealed to power and glory by showing Jesus all the kingdoms of the world (v. 8) and tempting Him with rule and ownership. He offered Jesus an easy route to becoming King of kings, bypassing the cross, and thus thwarting God's plan of salvation. What did the devil say Jesus had to do in order to receive rule and reign over all the kingdoms (v. 9)?

13. This offer wouldn't have been a temptation if the devil didn't own and rule all the kingdoms of the world. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31, and Ephesians 2:2, what titles are given to the devil?

14. What was Jesus' response to this temptation (v. 10)?

15. **PROPOUND:** In Jesus' third temptation, what did He command Satan to do? What did Satan do? (See Matthew 4:10-11.)

16. After the temptations, ministering angels attend to Jesus. List some of the types of ministry that angels perform and to whom they minister. (See Matthew 26:53, Luke 22:43, and Hebrews 1:14.)

17. **PRACTICE:** Review Jesus' response in each temptation. What did He do? How is this something we need be skilled at doing in our own lives?

18. **PROCLAIM:** When we're tempted, it is better to obey God's Word than to satisfy our own evil desires. Read James 1:12-15. What do we learn from this passage?

19. **PROTECT:** We can also be tempted by the devil (see James 1:12-15). Why is it crucial to focus on God's eternal plan for our lives, instead of the temporal pleasures of our flesh? (See Matthew 16:26 and 1 John 2:15-17.)

20. **PROPOUND:** In each temptation, Jesus said, "It is written." Where is it written? How did Jesus know what was written?

21. **PROPOUND:** Develop a personal strategy to deal with temptation based upon Jesus' response to the tempter. Share it here.

22. **PROPOUND:** Compare 1 John 2:16 with the three temptations of Jesus. How are they similar?

Jesus Begins His Ministry - Read Matthew 4:12-17

23. Jesus heard that John the Baptist was imprisoned; He left Nazareth in Galilee and went to Capernaum. Read Luke 4:16-30. Why did Jesus leave Nazareth?

24. Jesus began His ministry in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, thus fulfilling a prophecy from the book of Isaiah: light coming to people in darkness (v. 16). (See also John 8:12.) What is Jesus' message (v. 17)? Who else shared this message? (See Matthew 3:2; 10:7.)

Jesus Calls His First Disciples - Read Matthew 4:18-22

25. As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers: Simon, called Peter, and Andrew. What did He say to them and what was their response (vv. 19-20)?

26. James and John were mending nets when Jesus called them. What was their response and what did they leave (vv. 21-22)?

Learn more about these four men:

Peter: <http://believe879.com/travelers.asp?traveler=peter>

Andrew: <http://believe879.com/travelers.asp?traveler=andrew>

James: <http://believe879.com/travelers.asp?traveler=james>

John: <http://believe879.com/travelers.asp?traveler=johna>

27. **PROPOUND:** The disciples “immediately” left what they were doing to follow Jesus. Read Luke 9:57-62. Why is this important?

Jesus Ministers in Galilee - Read Matthew 4:23-25

28. As Jesus ministered in Galilee, He taught, preached, and healed. What is His message (v. 23)? What does the word *gospel* mean?

29. **PROPOUND:** Jesus taught in the synagogues. What do you think He taught?

30. Jesus began performing miracles that authenticated Him as the Messiah (anointed One). List the types of miracles He performed. (See also Matthew 11:2-5, where John the Baptist asked for confirmation of Jesus being the Coming One. Notice the response Jesus sent with John's disciples.) (See also Isaiah 29:18; 35:4-6.)

31. **PROMOTE:** Share with the group why Jesus' message when He began His ministry is still crucial today.

32. **PROCESS:** Take some time to review your strategy for dealing with the tempter. Are you ready to face him?

PRAY: Father, thank You for teaching me how to deal with temptation. Help me to resist the devil and stand firm in my faith.

Journal your prayer here: