

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 4:

vs. 1-11:

Jesus went into the wilderness, following the leading of the Spirit. He fasted for 40 days and nights. By being tempted, as He was about to, His character was tested and He also would be able to be a sympathetic High Priest for us, since He had been tempted in all points like us, yet was without sin.

The first temptation appealed to Jesus' physical desires. Satan tried to get Jesus to use His miraculous power to supply His needs, rather than trusting God. Jesus refused to turn the stones into bread, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3.

The second temptation was for Jesus to jump off the pinnacle of the temple and God would keep Him from being hurt. Had He done it, people would believe in Him and His ministry would be so productive in such a short period. Satan even tried to use Scripture to persuade Him (Psalm 91:11). This temptation was directed at the spiritual nature and the pride of life. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16.

The 3rd temptation was that Satan took Jesus up on a mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the earth and said that he would give them to Him, if He would only bow down and worship him. This would have been a quick way for Jesus to become the King of the World. Jesus replied, "Get thee hence, Satan! for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." This was a quote from Deuteronomy 6:13.

vs. 12-17:

Jesus left the area when He learned that John had been imprisoned. He left Judea and went north to Galilee. His ministry and preaching in this area fulfilled another prophecy (Isaiah 9:1,2).

vs. 18-22:

Jesus called Simon (called Peter) and Andrew (Peter's brother), to come and follow Him as disciples. They were called to leave their fishing business on the Sea of Galilee, and become fishers of men. It was not uncommon in those days for teachers to call people from their line of work to follow them and become their disciples.

James and John, sons of Zebedee, were also called to leave their fishing business and follow Jesus. These men joined the others.

vs. 23-25:

Jesus began His ministry in earnest; preaching, teaching and healing. News quickly spread from Galilee to Syria about His power. Many individuals, with many different afflictions were brought to Him and healed. It was not long before large crowds from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem and Judea were following Him.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 4:

1. Why was Jesus led into the desert?
2. What did the tempter first say to Jesus?
3. How did Jesus reply?
4. What was the second temptation?
5. What was the third temptation?
6. What did Jesus do, when He heard that John was in prison?
7. Whose prophecy was fulfilled, when Jesus went to Capernaum?
8. What did Jesus preach?
9. What was Simon and Andrews occupation?
10. What did Jesus say, He would make them?
11. Who else were called to follow?
12. What did Jesus do throughout Galilee?

BONUS:

1. What does Jesus' overcoming of temptations, mean to you?
2. How does our service to Christ compare to the disciples?
Explain.
3. How would the followers (vs. 24,25) compare with Christians?
Explain.

MATTHEW

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BONUS

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