

# “The Kingdom of God is Near”

Matthew 4:8-17; Psalm 84

February 6, 2022 Prelude: The Kingdom of God. part 6

Rev. Dr. Scott T. Arnold. FBCLA

Introduction: The Baptism of Jesus – A beautiful moment, a revelation. However, guess who’s in trouble now? (SA)

## I. Jesus faces the Devil (8-11)

### A. The devil’s reign in humanity (AO) (8)

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

### B. The devil’s temptation to Jesus (SA) (9)

<sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (The devil wants to take the place of the Heavenly Father. While the devil was in a position of false rule and authority, this would come to an end by means of God’s Son Jesus).

### C. Jesus rejects the devil’s offer (AO) (10)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

### D. Angels minister to Jesus (SA) (11)

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

## II. Jesus begins His ministry (12-17)

### A. Placement of ministry: Galilee (AO) (12-16)

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali-- <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- <sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

### B. Preaching repentance and hope (SA) (17)

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (at hand, in front of you, in your presence) The reality is that God’s Kingdom is not distant, but right before us.

## III. We Need Jesus to be our Lord and King (Psalm 84)

### A. Our need for knowing the Living God (1-2) (AO)

<sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

<sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

### B. Our need for God’s Kingdom (3-4) (SA)

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young-- a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Selah

### C. Our need for God’s grace and strength (5-7) (AO)

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

### D. Our need for God’s protection (8-9) (SA)

<sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. Selah <sup>9</sup> Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

### E. Our need for serving in God’s Kingdom (10) (AO)

<sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

### F. Our need for the Lord’s protection and provision. (11) (SA)

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

### G. Our need for trusting God. (12) (AO)

<sup>2</sup> O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Jesus BAPTISM – Jesus Death – Jesus Resurrection. (SA)

+Invitation to Trust and Obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

+ The Kingdom of God is at Hand, so near that God is calling you to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER (AO)