

Discussion Name: Matthew Chapter 4
Sid Edwards

I. Summary

Matthew 4 shows Jesus stepping into public ministry through testing, obedience, and calling others to follow him. Right after his baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness, fasts for forty days, and faces real temptations from Satan. Each time, Jesus responds with Scripture and refuses to step outside the Father's will. After the devil leaves, Jesus begins preaching the same message as John the Baptist: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come." He moves his ministry base to Galilee (fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy), calls his first disciples to become "fishers of people," and his ministry is described by three marks: teaching, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing those in need.

II. Scripture References

- Matthew 4:1–25
- Mark 1 (reference to Jesus being "driven" into the wilderness)
- Hebrews 2:18
- Hebrews 4:15
- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Psalm 91 (quoted by Satan)
- Exodus 17 (background to "do not put the Lord to the test")
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- Ephesians 2:2
- 1 John 2:16
- Isaiah 9
- Luke 4
- Luke 24

III. Key Themes and Takeaways

1. Temptation often comes after spiritual "mountaintop" moments, and it can be part of a Spirit-led testing season.
2. Jesus understands our temptations because he was truly tempted, yet remained sinless, and he is able to help us when we are tempted.
3. The primary weapon against temptation is the Word of God, used rightly, not twisted like Satan tries to do.
4. Repentance is the starting point of responding to Jesus, a real change of direction because God's kingdom rule is near and real.
5. Following Jesus leads to mission: he calls ordinary people to become "fishers of people," and his ministry spreads through teaching, proclaiming, and meeting needs.

IV. Discussion Questions

1. Looking at Matthew 4:1–11, what stands out to you about when and how Jesus was tempted (right after baptism, after fasting, in the wilderness)? How does that connect to how temptation shows up in real life?

2. The sermon mentioned that Jesus was physically weak but spiritually stronger after the forty days. What do you think that means? Where have you seen that be true, or not true, in your own life?
3. In the first temptation (stones to bread), what is Satan trying to get Jesus to do besides “eat”? What might the modern version of that temptation look like for us (meeting a real need in the wrong way)?
4. In the second temptation (pinnacle of the temple), Satan quotes Scripture (Psalm 91) but leaves part out. What does this teach us about how Scripture can be misused? What helps you tell the difference between wise trust in God and “testing God”?
5. In the third temptation (kingdoms of the world), Satan offers Jesus a shortcut to glory without the cross. Where are you most tempted by shortcuts that avoid obedience, patience, or suffering?
6. Jesus answers all three temptations with, “It is written.” What are some practical ways a person can build the habit of using God’s Word in the moment when temptation hits?
7. Matthew 4:17 records Jesus’ first public message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come.” When you hear the word “repent,” what feelings or misunderstandings come up? How would you explain repentance in everyday language?
8. The sermon described the kingdom of heaven as God’s rule and reign in the lives of his people today. What might it look like this week to live under God’s authority in one specific area (time, money, relationships, habits, stress)?
9. Peter, Andrew, James, and John “immediately” left their nets to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18–22). What do you think made their response so immediate? What usually slows down our response to Jesus?
10. The sermon closed with the idea that being a “fisher of people” is a lifelong calling. What might “fishing” look like for you in your current season of life, and what is one simple next step you could take without making it weird or forced?