

Jesus: No Spin Matthew Chapter Four: The Battle Begins

personal / group study for use with the message of October 11th and 12th, 2008

Tempted, tried, and focused. The two opposing powers meet. One offers terms of a settlement, a compromise so to speak. The conflict between Satan and Jesus shows not only that Jesus is firmly settled on His mission, but also that Satan opposes Him in the outworking of God's plan. After Jesus overcomes the temptations he moves on to the region of Galilee and establishes His headquarters in Capernaum.

Introduction.

Satan's plan is to get Jesus to sin, disqualifying Him as the Savior. God's purpose was to show Jesus' credentials as His sinless Son.

Read.

Matthew 4: "Then **Jesus was led by the Spirit** into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

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

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth,, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zabulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—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."

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him."

*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

Questions.

We fail to realize the spiritual nature of the world we live in, and the battles we face. Jesus began His ministry with a focused time of prayer, during which He resisted the temptations of the evil one. We need to be spiritual prepared for spiritual work. Jesus knew the Word of God and He stayed close to God the Father through prayer. We can do the same.

As you study the scriptures remember to rely on the Holy Spirit to teach you.

ThinkAboutIt...

1. Did you notice Who leads Jesus into the desert?
2. Do you believe that Jesus could be tempted? (See Hebrews 2:14-18)

ReflectOnIt...

3. Jesus was tempted in three areas, what were they? How does Jesus reply?
4. When Jesus heard that John was in prison, what does He do?
5. How is this account of Jesus' ministry the fulfillment of another prophecy? (Isaiah 9:1-2)
6. How quickly do the fishermen answer Jesus' call to follow Him? How long does it take you to answer His call?
7. List three activities Jesus is doing in His ministry. What does this teach you about His power over Satan?

RespondToIt...

8. Do you believe what God's Word is true? Do you trust in what you know from scripture, not in your feelings?
9. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and memorize each piece of spiritual armor.

We need to clothe ourselves with spiritual armor if we are to be used of God in this great spiritual conflict we are involved in.

- Isn't it wonderful to read how Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching and healing every disease. These closing verses record the first wave of His assault on Satan's kingdom.

Extra.

Read the description of how we are tempted. 1 John 2:15-16.

Read James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9.