

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/26-7/27 2021 *Matthew Chapter 4***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew!**

***Chapter 4 – Satan Tempts Jesus – (vs. 1-11) Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry – (vs. 12-17); Four Fisherman Called as Disciples – (vs. 18-22); Jesus Heals a Great Multitude – (vs. 23-25);***

- **In the third chapter, Matthew records for us the baptism of Jesus**, and as He came up out of the water, the heavens opened to Him, and John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. To John, that was the sign that Jesus was the Messiah. John said he did not know until he saw this, for the One who sent him to baptize, told him that the One upon whom the Spirit descended and remained, was the Messiah! He had been prophesying that the Messiah was coming soon, "*The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (3:2) Now at the baptism of Jesus, John recognized that Jesus was

indeed the Messiah! Then to confirm it, the voice of God speaking from heaven, **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"**

- **Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit!** (*Luk 4:18,19*) **"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; [19] TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."**

### **\*The Temptation of Jesus**

**Mat 4:1** **Then Jesus was led up** (driven) **by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.** (*Gen 3:1, 4, 5*) *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" [4] Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (*Job 1:9-11*) *So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? [10] Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. [11] But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

- **Now the temptation of Jesus was very important because Jesus is our great High Priest!** He is the go-between between man and God. The holy God is unapproachable by unholy man. We need a go-between. The infinite God and the finite man. The distance between the two is so great that it cannot be bridged, except by a go-between.
- **As Job realized the greatness of God and how nothing he was, he said,** "What is man that he can plead his case with God that he might justify himself?" He said, *"Besides, there is no daysman between us who can lay his hand on us both."* The distance between an infinite God and finite man can never be bridged by man starting with an earth base. That is why all religions are doomed for failure. Religions that begin with an earth base and try to reach to an infinite God are faced with an impossible situation.
- **The initiation has to come from God, for God so loved the world!** For an infinite God to reach finite man, you have no problem at all. But for finite man to reach an infinite God, you have an insurmountable problem! We needed a daysman, someone who could stand between us and lay His hand on us both. That is exactly what Jesus came to be, the Daysman between God and man, the Mediator; (*1Ti 2:5*) *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*
- **He became man so that He could touch us!** He continued to be God so that He could touch God! (*Joh 1:1-3*) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (Joh 1:14) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- **The Word was incarnate. He became man so that He could touch man, still touching God.** As our great High Priest, not after the Levitical order, not a descendant of Aaron, but a Priest after another order, the order of Melchizedek He became our great High Priest. If He is going to really intercede on my behalf, He has to understand my weaknesses. He has to understand temptations. We are told in (*Heb 2:8-18*) **YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.** *"For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. [9] But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. [10] For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. He had to suffer in order to understand fully our sufferings. [11] For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, [12] saying: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY, I WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU." [13] And again: "I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM." And again: "HERE AM I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME" [14] Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in*

*the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. [16] For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. [17] Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. [18] For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

- **The fact that He was tempted, He understands you. He understands the temptations that you experience.** He has that kind of empathy having been tempted. He knows what it is all about. Thus, He is able to minister to us adequately, having Himself experienced it. So being led of the Spirit into the wilderness for the purpose of being tempted was a part of God's ordained plan that He might be our High Priest and might understand our temptations that we experience through this body of flesh in which we live!
- **Jesus' temptation shows us that while Satan is strong and cunning, he cannot be victorious against the name of Jesus or against God's word!** Satan is not invincible! Though he is a strong man armed, yet the Captain of our salvation is stronger than he! It is comforting to us to think that Christ suffered, being tempted, was victorious over temptation. For us, temptations, if not yielded to, are not sins, but are afflictions only, and may be pleasingly overcome! Do I really expect to be victorious in not yielding to temptation?

**Mat 4:2** *And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry (famish, crave).*

- **Forty is a significant number in the Bible. It is a number that usually indicates judgment.** It rained for forty days and forty nights. There are other instances of the forty years, for instance, in the wilderness. It is a significant number in the Bible. Here, Jesus *fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards was hungry.*
- **After fasting for seven or eight days, a person loses their appetite.** Now you cannot go very long without food and water. The longest you can survive without water and food is about eight or nine days, until the body is completely dehydrated, and you die from dehydration. But a person can go without food for up to forty days but once hunger sets in again, then it is imperative that you eat rather quickly because it is a sign that you are now starving to death, the body is beginning to consume its vital organs. Death is not far off, once the hunger returns after a prolonged period of fasting.

**Mat 4:3** *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If ("since" You are) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

- **God had just declared that. He said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** Satan knew that He was the Son, thus it is not indicative 'if', but it is 'since You are'... the Son of God, use Your powers, the divine authority that You have and command that these stones be made bread. Use Your spiritual powers in order to feed Your physical need, or let the Spirit be in subjection to the flesh. Let the Spirit serve the flesh!
- **Now all of our temptation has to do with the life of the flesh and the life of the Spirit!** Consistently, the Bible teaches us that the life of the Spirit is superior to and more important than the life of the flesh. Also that the flesh should be subservient to the Spirit. The fleshly body needs should not reign or rule over you.
- **The emphasis in the Bible is upon the spiritual side of your nature and that should be the predominant aspect of your being, the spiritual side of your nature.**
- **Now Satan is suggesting that the spiritual side of Jesus' nature should be subservient to His flesh!** "You are the Son of God, then use the power, the spiritual powers as such, to take care of the need of your flesh. You are hungry? Go ahead and let the Spirit be subservient to your flesh." There is no doubt that Jesus could have turned the stone into bread. Thus, **the idea again is let the Spirit serve the flesh, rather than the flesh serve the Spirit!**

**Mat 4:4** *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'*

*(Deu 8:2-6) And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. [3] So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread*

*alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. [4] Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. [5] You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you. [6] "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.*

- **Jesus answered and said, It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE. Just the physical life is not enough! The fleshly life is not enough! We need that spiritual side of our nature developed and we shall live, **BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.** With God directing and guiding my life, walking after the Spirit and the things of the Spirit, I will put my trust in the word of God! I will live after the Spirit!**

**Mat 4:5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, Mat 4:6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'**

*(Psa 91:11-12) For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. [12] In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

- **The pinnacle of the temple means an elevated, highest point, or high place.** If that were on the southeast corner of the Temple Mount wall, it would be about 450 feet above the Kidron Valley.
- **Satan's suggestion is, if you really trust in God, then show God how much you do trust Him.** You are trusting the word of God, then let us demonstrate it. If you are going to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, then go ahead and jump from here, because the word of God says, **'HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU,' and, IN THEIR HANDS THEY SHALL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU DASH YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.** Do something spectacular to prove your trust in God and to prove the word of God. You are going to live by the word, okay, prove the word of God.
- **Note the cunning craftiness of Satan, as was in the temptation of Eve in the Garden,** misquoting scripture. Jesus has just responded, **'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.**
- **Satan quotes Psalm 91:11, but omits the phrase, To keep you in all your ways!** We need to be on guard not to omit scripture or take it out of context!

**Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT (test) THE LORD YOUR GOD.' "**

*(Deu 6:16) "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah. (1Co 10:9) nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; (Num 21:4-6) Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. [5] And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." [6] So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

- **It is wrong for me to deliberately put myself in a position of danger or jeopardy** just to test my faith or to test God's faithfulness! There are many people who are taking scripture out of context as Satan did, **"It is written,** isn't that the scripture, doesn't it say, **'He will give His angels charge over you, keep you in all?...'** Yes. "Then go ahead and jump."
- **It is written again--how important that we not take or pull the scripture from its context,** but that we compare the scripture with the whole of the body of truth that is found in the Word of God.
- **Many people have built doctrines upon portions of scripture.** When you take a scripture out of its context, you can give it an entirely different meaning. How many times have you heard people say, "Well, **(Php 2:12b)**, *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;* So, you are to work and it's your works that are so important because 'work out your salvation with fear and trembling.' But what does the rest of the verse say? **(Php 2:13)** *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- **When you finish the passage, it is entirely different.** It is God that is working in me, both to give me the will and the capacity to do of His good pleasure. **It is not me working to be saved! It is not me working that I might offer to God my good works as a medium for my salvation, but it is God working in me giving me the will, giving me the desire, and then giving me the ability to fulfill it!** Taking

scripture out of its context or taking a scripture and interpreting it in conflict with the whole body of truth, can lead into error. Here, it is written, **HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU.** Put it to the test! But Jesus said, "**It is written again, 'YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.'**"

**Mat 4:8** Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (splendor).

**Mat 4:9** And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall (bow) down and worship me."

- **This is an extremely powerful and strong temptation because Jesus came to redeem the world back to God.** That was the purpose of His coming, (**Luk 19:10**) *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* The world originally belonged to God. He created it. He gave it to man when He created Adam and placed him upon the earth. Adam turned it over to Satan. Satan became the prince of this world, the ruler of the darkness of this world.
- **God desired the world again to be in the kingdom of God.** It was in rebellion against the authority of God, led by Satan. Our prayer is, "**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.**" It is not that way now, but our prayer is that it shall be that way. The purpose of the coming of Jesus, was that the kingdoms of this world might again become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah.
- **Here the issue is, "You don't have to go to the cross!** I know that You came to redeem the world, but You do not have to follow God's plan, to fulfill the purpose of God of bringing the kingdoms under the control and the authority of God. If You will bow down and worship me, if You fall down, prostrate Yourself before me, I'll give them to You, apart from the cross!"
- **Immediate fulfillment! Satan is trying to say that you can find fulfillment, the realization of your heart's desires apart from the cross in your life.** That you do not have to deny yourself and take up your cross to find life. That you can find life in this experience or that experience, in this relationship or that relationship. The idea is always that of **immediate fulfillment!** You can have it now without the cross, if You just submit to me. Worship me, fall down before me."
- **The cross was not a pleasant prospect to look forward to.** The Bible tells us that (**Heb 12:2c**) *He endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* Coming to redeem the world to God, that again this portion of the universe, that is out of sorts with the Creator, this portion of the universe that has rebelled against the authority of God, might again know the blessings and the peace and the glory of being surrendered to God! He came to give His life to pay the price, to redeem the world back to God! Satan is suggesting that you can do it apart from God's will!
- **There is an element in the church that sort of takes the posture that the end justifies the means.** If we use the profits for some good cause, then, let us do evil that good may come. But the scripture opposes that idea! Jesus opposed that idea!

**Mat 4:10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '**YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.**'" (**Deu 6:13-14, 20**) *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. [14] You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you. [Deu 10:20] You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.*

- Now Satan had to obey.

**Mat 4:11** Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

- **When He said, "Get out of here," Satan had to go!** He is subject to the authority of Jesus. He did come back many times. This was only one of the many encounters that Jesus had with the powers of darkness. In every case, He overcame them.
- **Later on, Satan was using Peter to offer the same suggestion that He evade the cross.** Jesus began to tell His disciples how that He was going to be betrayed and given over to the hands of the Gentiles. He would be crucified and slain, but He would rise again the third day.
- **Peter began to rebuke Him saying, "(Mat 16:22-23) Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" Do not talk about a cross. Spare Yourself. [23] But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."**

- **The cross spelled the defeat for Satan!** Through His death, Jesus triumphed over the powers of darkness. But the temptation, shortcut, the path of the flesh, the easy way. You do not want a cross. You do not want to deny yourself. Take the easy way! Live after the flesh. Thus, temptation is to yield to the flesh rather than to the Spirit. To live after the flesh rather than to live after the Spirit.
- **Jesus knows what that temptation is all about!** That is what comes to us, yielding to the flesh or yielding to the Spirit. And every situation that arises, I can respond after my flesh, ugly, nasty response.
- **Or I can respond after the Spirit. I can respond in love, in forgiveness, in kindness, in mercy.** Now, whenever I respond after the flesh, I always feel miserable. I always feel sorry and miserable. But whenever I respond after the Spirit, I feel so good. When someone has done something that is wrong and foolish and I say, “Oh, that’s all right,” It is so good! Does that describe me?
- **But we are always faced with those issues, where I can respond one way or the other. I can respond after the flesh, or I can respond after the Spirit. That is what temptation and testing is all about. To this testing, will I respond after the flesh, or will I respond after the Spirit? The Lord continues to test us in these areas. There is one bad thing about failing a test is that, you have to take it over!**

#### From this temptation narrative we may learn:

- **That no one is so holy as to be free from temptation**, for even the Son of God was greatly and severely tempted.
- **That when God permits a temptation or trial to come upon us, He will, if we look to Him, give us grace** to resist and overcome it, by responding in the spirit and not in the flesh! How do I normally respond? Do I turn to Him and His word and yield to the Spirit, or simply yield to the flesh?
- **We see the art of the tempter**, adapted to times and circumstances. They are plausible. What could have been more plausible than His suggestions to Christ? They were applicable to His circumstances. They had the appearance of much holiness. They were backed by passages of Scripture, misapplied, but still most artfully presented.
- **Satan never comes boldly and tempts people to sin**, telling them that they are committing sin, which would defeat his design. It would put people on their guard. He commences, therefore, artfully and plausibly, and the real purpose does not appear until he has prepared the mind for it.
- **This is the way with all temptation.** No wicked person would at once tempt another to be profane, to be drunk, to be an infidel, or to commit adultery. The principles are first corrupted. The confidence is secured. The affections are won. And then the allurements are little by little presented, until the victim falls. How everyone should be on his guard at the very first appearance of evil, at the first suggestion that may possibly lead to sin!
- **One of the best ways of meeting temptation is by applying Scripture.** That is what our Savior did, and they will always best succeed who best use the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. He used verses from Deuteronomy, in similar situations, that were given by God to Israel at the end of the wilderness march.

#### *Jesus Begins His Ministry*

- **Now there is probably a year’s gap between verse eleven and verse twelve.** Matthew, Mark, and Luke, do not tell us anything of that particular year in the life or ministry of Jesus, but John does give us some details. In first and second chapter of John, he tells us of the ministry of John the Baptist, telling of Jesus' coming. John says (*Joh 1:29*) *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* Some of John’s disciples were turning and following Jesus. *Andrew came to Jesus, and he went and got his brother, Simon, and brought him to Jesus. And Philip and Nathaniel...* filling in some of the events of that year between the baptism of Jesus and the imprisonment of John the Baptist.

*Mat 4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.*

*Mat 4:13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,*

- **Capernaum became, more or less, the center of the ministry of Christ, there, around the Galilee.** Most of the events that are recorded, the miracles and so forth, were done in and around Capernaum.

He moved from His home in Nazareth, probably from the family, and came to Capernaum, *which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali*, the two tribes of Israel that were apportioned up in the north, the tribe of Zebulun and the tribe of Naphtali. Naphtali had the upper Galilee region and Zebulun, the area around the Galilee and down towards Mount Gilboa.

**\*Mat 4:14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:**

- It is interesting how that every place Jesus went, was sort of a fulfillment of prophecy. Born in Bethlehem, that the prophecy might be fulfilled; went to Egypt in order that the prophecy might be fulfilled; brought his son out of Egypt, went to Nazareth in order that the prophecy might be fulfilled, He would be called a Nazarene; and now even the move to Capernaum was in order to fulfill a prophecy.

**Mat 4:15 "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES:**

**Mat 4:16 THE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT, AND UPON THOSE WHO SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT HAS DAWNED."**

- This is a prophecy that is from Isaiah chapter nine. It is in that same prophecy that we read, "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given." (Isaiah 9:6) This is an area that was populated by many non-Jewish people, this area of Naphtali. It was one of the first areas that was taken captive by the Assyrians. It was called Galilee of the Gentiles. There were the many Gentile cities around the area, the Decapolis up there. Yet, the prophecy of "the people who were sitting in darkness, they saw a great light. They sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.

**Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**

- And from that time Jesus began to preach, and to say. Now when Jesus began to preach, what was His first word? We know what John the Baptist's first word was *repent!* What is the first word of the gospel that Jesus began to preach? *Repent!* Why do you suppose He said that? Because the need of most people is to repent. That is the first word of the Gospel tells us to do! How quickly after sin, do I repent?
- *Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand* (has come near). That is basically the message that John the Baptist was preaching. Now Jesus picks it up.

**Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

**Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.**

**Mat 4:19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."**

- *Two brothers, who were not strangers to Jesus.* The gospel of John tells us how that they had already come to Jesus. They had already known Jesus. They had already followed Him. They had seen His ministry. They had watched the miracles. They had been around Him. As He was walking by the sea of Galilee, and He saw the two brothers, *Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.*
- *Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."* A new vocation. You will become fishers of men.

**Mat 4:20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.**

- **The call of the Lord, which was immediately responded to.** Simon Peter and Andrew immediately responded! Now there were others who were called but they had excuses. (Mat 8:21-22) *Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." [22] But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."* You say, how cruel! How heartless! The problem was his father was not dead yet! What the man was saying, "I'm going to stick around home until my Dad dies. Then I'll consider coming." Here is the immediate response to the call of God:

**Mat 4:21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, Mat 4:22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

- He is now beginning to gather His disciples, starting out with four fishermen.

### *Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds*

*Mat 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

- **Now notice, He was first of all *preaching*.** Now He is *teaching*. There is a place for *preaching* and there is a place for *teaching*. The place of *preaching* is the proclamation of the Gospel to the world, to the unsaved. But for the believer, the necessity is not *preaching* but the *teaching* of the Word. There are too many churches that have only *preaching* and no *teaching*. Churches are being preached to death, whereas the saints of God need *teaching*.
- **In the synagogues He was *teaching*, and *preaching* the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing*.** The ministry of Jesus was *preaching, teaching, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people*. These were the three predominant aspects of the ministry of Jesus: the *healing*, the *preaching*, the *teaching*.

*Mat 4:24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

*Mat 4:25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*

- **It spread on up beyond the borders of Israel, on into Syria.** The fame of Jesus spread very rapidly and far away. People began to come to see the miracles and all that He was performing. They came, not in just multitudes, but in *great multitudes*! Some estimate that there may have been as many as 50,000—60,000 people in a *great multitude*! They began to bring their sick, the people who had various problems, illnesses, that they might be touched by His hand.
- **The ministry of Jesus was always that of restoration**—always that of improving those around Him! He restored the bodies that had been racked by illness, by *disease*; the restoration of the lives that have been racked by sin, giving new life, new hope unto those that sat in darkness. The Light of the glory of God is now shining unto these people. What a glorious day when the Light of the glory of God shines upon our hearts through Jesus Christ. He ministers to us and to our needs. Our great High Priest, how thankful we are for Him! How Christlike am I in always desiring to make an improvement in everyone's life, with which He gives me contact? It that my constant prayer and objective?

### Summary:

- **Overcoming temptation** - It is comforting to us to think that Christ suffered, being tempted, was victorious over temptation. For us, temptations, if not yielded to, are not sins, but are afflictions only, and may be pleasingly overcome!
- **Do I really expect to be victorious** in not yielding to temptation?
- **When God permits a temptation or trial to come upon us, He will, if we look to Him, give us grace** to resist and overcome it, by responding in the spirit and not in the flesh!
- **How do I normally respond?** Do I turn to Him and His word and yield to the Spirit, or simply yield to the flesh?
- **Repent!** That is the first word of the Gospel tells us to do! How quickly after sin, do I repent?
- **Make an improvement in everyone's life!** How Christlike am I in always desiring to make an improvement in everyone's life, with which He gives me contact? It that my constant prayer and objective?
- **THANK YOU, JESUS! MAY WE SPEAK YOUR NAME!**

### Closing Song:

## **I SPEAK JESUS** Here be Lions, Dustin Smith (5:20)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind  
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus  
I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break  
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus  
'Cause Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life  
Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire  
I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety  
To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus  
Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life  
Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire

Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family I speak the holy name Jesus (3x)

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire (2x)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His presence I speak Jesus

### **Closing Prayer:**

May we be thankful!

- To our Father for sending Jesus Christ, His Son into this world that He might redeem us from our sin.
- That we might have victory over Satan's tempting by keeping Jesus between us and the devil!
- The importance and necessity of the use of Scripture in response to temptation!

As we study the life of Christ in the gospels, may we realize and understand:

- Lord Jesus, that You set an example for us that we might follow in Your steps!
- The importance of the life of the Spirit, its superiority over the life of the flesh!
- Free us, Father, from the bondage to our flesh, from that tendency that we have towards the flesh, that desire for fleshly things!
- May we realize the emptiness and the frustration of the life of the flesh!
- May we live after the Spirit, follow after the Spirit, walk after the Spirit, be filled with the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit, even as our Lord was.
- Lead us, Lord, in Your path.

***Assignment for next week: Read Matthew Chapter 5***