

# Matthew 4

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## Matthew 4

Jesus was also tempted

Facing temptation is an inevitable challenge in life. Temptation can come from external circumstances or from inner struggles. It's both a challenge and an opportunity for growth, and it's all about how we deal with it.

Temptation often comes in the form of temptation that draws us away from the right path. For example, sacrificing long-term values for short-term gain, or giving up oneself in order to meet the expectations of others. These temptations can be confusing or even disorienting. Therefore, we need to keep a clear head, recognize the nature of temptation, and stick to our principles.

Facing temptation requires strong willpower and a clear goal. When we know what we really want, we are not easily swayed by external temptations.

Every temptation is a test that makes us more aware of our weaknesses and needs. Through reflection, we can learn from our failures and gain confidence from our successes, so that we can be more prepared to face future temptations.

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Jesus is fully human; He stood in the position of the "Son of Man" to face temptation, and His "hunger" shows that He is a real man of flesh and blood, and how Adam accepted temptation as a sinless man in the Garden of Eden, the Lord Jesus faced temptation in the same way.

The wilderness of Judah had an important place in the Jewish religion, and their ancestors had been trained in the wilderness for forty years before they were able to enter the Promised Land. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights to overcome the devil, and Jesus fulfilled all righteousness with obedience. He was first filled with the Holy Spirit and used the Word of God to resist the devil, and

only by being filled with the Holy Spirit and receiving the guidance of the Holy Spirit can he win the spiritual battle.

The Jewish ancestors lived with the LORD forty years in the wilderness. Moses wrote down God's ten commandments on Mount Sinai "for forty days and forty nights, neither eating nor drinking." The prophet Elijah also "walked forty days and nights to Mount Sinai"

It also shows that Jesus is God's chosen servant.

Satan's target is the soul of man, and he often sells it under the guise of goodness. Satan's temptations always occur when man is enjoying success and glory, or when he is at his weakest. Those who obey God are the first targets of the devil, and the devil will not waste time dealing with those who are cold to God because they are already in his possession, and God will allow the temptation to show that our victory is by God's Word.

Stand away, Satan." Satan's temptations can only be carried out in the case of deception, when we understand that this is Satan's work and rebuke him by name, that is when he is incapacitated. The devil's trick is to use the splendor of the nations to tempt people to pursue and serve things other than God, and the Lord Jesus overcame the temptation of the devil three times with the word of God ("it is written"). The Word of God is the sword of the Holy Spirit, invincible and invincible.

When Jesus began his ministry, he took advantage of the large number of people in the synagogue and taught the people there. And they brought all the sicknesses, all the sicknesses, all the sicknesses, all the pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptic, the paralyzed, and Jesus healed them."

Jesus called Peter and Andrew, who had been disciples of John the Baptist, as well as Jacob and John. Jesus called them to give up their fishing profession and win souls for the kingdom of God. The scriptures record that they responded to Jesus' call by "immediately rejecting and following," that is, immediately following Jesus without a second word.

As we are called to serve the Lord as disciples of Christ, we will inevitably experience trials in our life ascension and expansion, so that we can rely on the Spirit of God to overcome the temptations of the enemy, bravely step into God's call, and become the best soldiers of Christ!

In our lives, Satan the Devil often takes advantage of our "shortcut" mentality to lure us away from the path of the cross. We need to be sober and courageous to say "no" to all the temptations of Satan the Devil and declare that our goal in life is to worship God, serve God, and act according to God's will.

Let's pray together,

Thank you, dear Lord, for letting us know how Jesus used God's Word to resist the devil through today's scriptures, and ask the Lord to help us overcome the temptations of the enemy, exalt Jesus, and receive God's call to follow God closely, help us see the needs of others in our daily lives, and give us compassion for all.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen!

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## The Temptation of Jesus

<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus was led by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After He had gone without food for forty days and forty nights, He became hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” <sup>4</sup> But Jesus replied, “It is written *and* forever remains written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him into the holy city [Jerusalem] and placed Him on the pinnacle (highest point) of the temple. <sup>6</sup> And he said [mockingly] to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command His angels concerning You [to serve, care for, protect and watch over You]’;

and

‘They will lift you up on *their* hands,  
So that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written *and* forever remains written, ‘You shall not test the Lord your God.’”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him up on a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory [splendor, magnificence, and excellence] of them; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written *and* forever remains written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him; and angels came and ministered to Him [bringing Him food and serving Him].

## Jesus Begins His Ministry

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John [the Baptist] had been arrested *and* put in prison, He left for Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth, He went and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> *This was* to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup>

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee [in the district] of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup>

“The people who were sitting (living) in [spiritual] darkness have seen a great Light,  
And for those who were sitting (living) in the land and shadow of [spiritual and moral] death,  
Upon them a Light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “[a]Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

## The First Disciples

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He noticed two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And He said to them, “[b]Follow Me [as My disciples, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk], and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Him

[becoming His disciples, believing and trusting in Him and following His example]. <sup>21</sup> And going on [further] from there He noticed two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and his brother John, in the boat with their father <sup>[e]</sup>Zebedee, mending their nets; and He called them [to follow Him as His disciples]. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him [becoming His disciples, believing and trusting in Him and following His example].

## Ministry in Galilee

<sup>23</sup> And He went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news (gospel) of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people [demonstrating and revealing that He was indeed the promised Messiah].

<sup>24</sup> So the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were sick, those suffering with various diseases and pains, those under the power of demons, and epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the <sup>[d]</sup>Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and the other side of the Jordan.

Matthew 4 is a pivotal chapter in the Gospel of Matthew, detailing two significant events in the life of Jesus: His **temptation in the wilderness** (verses 1–11) and the **beginning of His public ministry** (verses 12–25). This chapter highlights Jesus' preparation for ministry, His victory over temptation, and the initial steps in calling disciples and spreading His message.

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## 1. The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1–11)

### Summary

After His baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He fasts for 40 days and nights. During this time, He is tempted by the devil in three ways:

1. **Turning stones into bread (v. 3):**

Satan tempts Jesus to satisfy His physical hunger by using His divine power. Jesus responds:

“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (v. 4, quoting Deuteronomy 8:3)

2. **Jumping from the temple (v. 5–6):**

Satan challenges Jesus to prove His divine sonship by throwing Himself down, citing Psalm 91:11–12 to suggest that angels will protect Him. Jesus replies:

“It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (v. 7, quoting Deuteronomy 6:16)

3. **Worshiping Satan for worldly kingdoms (v. 8–9):**

Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will bow down and worship him. Jesus declares:

“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” (v. 10, quoting Deuteronomy 6:13)

Afterward, Satan departs, and angels come to minister to Jesus.

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## 2. The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (Matthew 4:12–25)

### Summary

- **Jesus Moves to Galilee (v. 12–17):**

Upon hearing of John the Baptist's imprisonment, Jesus begins His ministry in Galilee, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 9:1–2). He preaches:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (v. 17)

- **Calling the First Disciples (v. 18–22):**

Jesus calls Simon Peter and Andrew, then James and John, to follow Him, saying:

“Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” (v. 19)

They immediately leave their nets and follow Him.

- **Jesus' Healing Ministry (v. 23–25):**

Jesus travels throughout Galilee, teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the gospel, and healing every disease and affliction. His fame spreads, and large crowds follow Him.

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### Theological Thoughts

1. **Jesus as the New Adam and Israel:**

Jesus' victory over temptation mirrors Adam's failure in Eden and Israel's disobedience in the wilderness. Where Adam and Israel succumbed, Jesus remains faithful, showing He is the perfect representative of humanity and the true Son of God.

2. **The Authority of Scripture:**

Jesus counters every temptation by quoting Scripture, emphasizing its sufficiency and authority in guiding believers to resist sin and align with God's will.

3. **The Kingdom of Heaven:**

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom (v. 17) marks a central theme of His ministry. The kingdom signifies God's reign breaking into the world through Jesus, calling people to repentance and transformation.

4. **The Cost of Discipleship:**

The immediate response of the disciples highlights the radical nature of following Jesus—leaving behind their livelihood and family to embrace His call.

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### Spiritual Influence

1. **Victory Over Temptation:**

Jesus' triumph over the devil provides believers with a model for resisting temptation through reliance on God's Word, prayer, and faith.

2. **Repentance and Renewal:**

Jesus' call to repentance (v. 17) invites believers to turn from sin and embrace a new life under God's rule.

3. **The Call to Follow:**

The disciples' response challenges Christians to prioritize their relationship with Jesus above all else, trusting Him to provide purpose and direction.

4. **Healing and Restoration:**

Jesus' healing ministry demonstrates God's compassion and power, inspiring believers to seek Him for physical and spiritual restoration.

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### **Key Verses**

- **Matthew 4:4:** "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."
  - **Matthew 4:7:** "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
  - **Matthew 4:10:** "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."
  - **Matthew 4:17:** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
  - **Matthew 4:19:** "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
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### **Conclusion**

Matthew 4 underscores Jesus' identity as the Messiah, His mission to bring God's kingdom to earth, and His power to overcome evil. It encourages believers to trust in God's Word, resist temptation, and wholeheartedly follow Jesus in their spiritual journey.