

Mathew Chapters 3&4

Key Verse: “ A voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3:17

Bible Truth Goal: To gain a fresh understanding of Jesus’ identity as God the Son.

Life Response Goal: To obey Jesus’ authority and follow His example of obedience to the Father.

What do you remember from last Sunday’s lesson?

Read Mathew Chapt. 3 & 4

Approximately 30 years passed between chapters 2-3 of Matthew. He grew up in and lived in Nazareth and worked as a carpenter. Now the time has come for Him to begin His public ministry, which will culminate at the cross.

We learned last week that Jesus was the promised coming King. In these chapters we will learn if Jesus is still qualified to be King.

Matthew assembles the testimonies of five witnesses to affirm that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God and the King.

1. John the Baptist

For over 400 years Israel had not heard the voice of a prophet. Then John appeared, and a revival took place.

What was John’s message to the people? (Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near)

What did he mean by “repent”? What does it mean to “repent”? (Repent means to do a 180 degree turn from the selfish, self-centered, lying, cheating, stealing, gossiping, taking revenge, abusing, and indulging in sexual immorality that the Israelites and us today have been involved in. To turn from sin and live life God’s way! Remember: God does not expect us to come to Him in perfection, we can’t get rid of sin in our life, but God can and will if we turn to him)

Why do you think that John wore funny clothes and ate nasty things? What was the purpose? (John wanted to show that he was markedly different from the other religious leaders of the time. The Pharisees and other religious leaders were wearing fancy clothes (trying to wear the longest tassles) and eating the finest foods. But John was a new and different kind of religious leader. He had a different message, different priorities, and it was touching peoples hearts and minds.

In verse 6 who was confessing their sins? (God’s chosen people, the Jews. John was calling them to make a new commitment to God, to repent of sin, and to follow God.)

Why do you think John called them a brood of vipers? (Since Satan is the serpent in the Bible (Gen. 3:1; 2 Cor. 11:3; Rev. 12:9) John was actually calling them “children of the devil.”

What kind of a message was John preaching to these people? (A message of judgment, a message of repenting from sin)

How were the people responding? (Were understanding their sin against God and were repenting of that sin with the sign of baptism)

How did the Pharisees and Sadducees respond to this message? (Doesn't appear as if they were repenting and being baptized because of the way that John responds to them in verses 8-10.)

How did John say that God was going to respond to those who were not producing good fruit? (vs. 10 and vs. 12)

Why is John baptizing these people, for what purpose? (For repentance, not salvation)

Who is John speaking of in verse 11? (Jesus)

What is Jesus doing in verse 12? (He is separating humanity, some to judgment and some to reward)

Personal Question: From verse 12 – Am I producing useless chaff or valuable grain?

Why was Jesus baptized by John? Was Jesus a sinner in need of repentance? (John tried to stop Jesus, Jesus knew it was God's will for him to be baptized, it legitimized John's ministry and it identified Him with the people he came to save.)

What does the dove represent? (The spirit of God, also in Genesis it brought back the symbol of peace, so this may also represent the peace of Jesus mission to the people)

Personal Question: From verse 17 – If God talked to me right now would I hear "This is my son or daughter whom I love; with you I am well pleased or would you hear the words of John to the Pharisees in verse 8-10?" (Remember God allows change in a life, when we repent as John is preaching in this chapter, we have the opportunity to repent, be baptized and to hear God's blessing rather than His righteous judgment)

How does an athlete know if there months of training has produced the intended affect? How does an actor know if the hours of memorization and practice has been effective? (They must be tested in competition or in front of an audience, there must be some kind of testing to see if the person is prepared for greater challenges ahead)

Why does the Spirit lead Jesus to Satan to be tempted? (Just as with Job and others God allowed Satan the opportunity to tempt and test Jesus to see if his 30 years of training had prepared Him for what he was about to face. Just as God was confident in Job's preparedness he was confident in Jesus preparedness as well.)

In what area did Satan attack Jesus? (Satan went after Jesus in exactly the same area in which cause Satan's fall from Heaven. He tried to get Jesus to bypass God the Father! He tried to get Jesus to take power that was not His to take)

Can you think of another time where God lead people into a time of testing? (God lead the Isrealites into the desert to be tested for 40 years to see if they were ready to follow him whole heartedly)

Who is the tempter? Do you think the tempter is still at work today? How do you know this to be true?

After each temptation given by Satan how does he justify his temptation? (By using the scriptures out of context)

How does Jesus defeat Satan's temptations? (By using scripture in a way that was intended by God)

What does this tell you about the kind of tempter we face? (He know scripture, He knows our weaknesses, he will try to get us to take power that is not ours to take, etc.)

What kind of human desire did the first temptation focus on? (Physical needs)

What kind of human desire did the second temptation focus on? (Possessions and Power)

What kind of human desire did the third temptation focus on? (Pride)

Are all human desires bad? What's important to remember about our human desires? (God has given us our desires so they are not bad, there is a right time and place to fulfill those desires. Examples: Jesus had a desire for food after fasting for forty days, Satan's temptation was not the right time for that God given desire to be fulfilled. Sex is a desire given by God that is to be fulfilled in a marriage relationship not before marriage; other examples.

Does just knowing Scripture help us defeat Satan's attacks? (No, knowing scripture and obeying it is the key, many people know God's word but don't obey it. Satan obviously knows scripture but doesn't obey it. It's an obedience thing. I told you last week that we need to get better at using the Sword, we are weak warriors for the King because we don't know God's Word. We need to know it and obey it. We must be preparing for our battle with Satan and the temptations that he will bring at us. We are in a spiritual battle every day. We need each other, we need a sharp Sword, and a heart willing to obey our King!

Personal Question: Where does Satan most attack you? How does he attack you? Where are you weak? What kind of convincing argument does he use to convince you that his way is legitimate? Do you know how to defend this attack? What does God's Word say about this specific temptation? Do you believe God's word is true? Are you willing to obey it?

After this temptation Jesus began his ministry and his preaching period of his life. What was Jesus message? (Repent of the kingdom of heaven is near)

How was the kingdom of heaven near? (The kingdom was near because the King was near.)

What were the three main areas of Jesus ministry? (Teaching, preaching, and healing)

