

Matthew 4:1-25 Following the King

We ended Chapter 3 last week – Jesus' baptism

A) Great spiritual moment of validation – as the Father spoke from heaven – This pleased

B) Holy Spirit descended like a dove!

1) Triune Godhead represented there – Father speaking / The Son – baptized / Spirit.... Dove

C) No time to enjoy the moment:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

A) Focus on Sunday: Temptation of the King

B) Now we noted that Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness for our benefit – so we could learn

C) After this great spiritual moment – because that is so often when the enemy attacks us.

D) James: Blessed is the man who endures

1) Learn how to endure from Jesus
Missed Sunday – listen on line or podcast

But I want to hit the main points tonight real quick

A) Jesus was Fasting: Purpose – Heighten your spiritual antenna – Deny the flesh – tune in

B) Fasting is a great spiritual discipline: Brings closeness to God – and power.

1) We will see Matthew 17 – demon possessed boy – Disciples unable to cast out.

C) This kind comes out only by praying and fasting

1) Meaning – it needs to be a regular part of your life because you never know.

D) Recently called to deal with a Demonic situation.

1) Day off – Was not fasting: Christmas time – See's Candies - / Christmas cookies

E) As I am driving over to this house – all I could think about – I wasn't praying or fasting –
MERCY

1) HE WAS – WORKED IN POWER.

The thing we should draw from this is – Jesus the son of God – as a man was prone to fast –

A) I think we should as well. -

B) Start with a meal or a day –

1) Fast from social media or fast from TV

C) Idea being that – instead of doing the things you normally do – you are seeking the Lord

D) Jesus was fasting for 40 days and 40 nights

1) Wilderness – barren desert

V.2 He was hungry – Signal the fast was over – time to eat

A) Satan attacks us where we are vulnerable

B) 1st temptation

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If (since) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”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.’”

C) Doubt God's provision: take matters into your own hands

Jesus responds

A) Man shall not live by bread alone – physical
But man shall live bymouth of God

B) Living connected to the word

C) Body / soul/ spirit – The spirit is the real you

D) Spiritual is to take precedence over the physical

1) Seek first the Kingdom Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

E) Jesus employs the Word: It is written.

1) Specific word for each temptation:

2nd temptation V.5

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.’”

This time the temptation is to Doubt God's protection

A) Make God prove himself –if He really loves you he will protect you.

B) 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

1) When you trust God you don't need to test God – He will come through in His time

C) I don't need to force the issue: I just need to follow my fathers plan.

3rd Temptation:

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

A) Doubt God's plan - Short cut – The World without the Cross

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.' "

B) Worship is Proskuneo – To turn and to Kiss -

1) Worship is connected to love.

C) But Jesus also tells us – Worship is connected to service. **Him only you shall serve.**

When you love God – you will worship and serve Him. Natural result

A) Because Jesus loved His Father – Submitted to the Plan

B) Love God – Father who knows best – You submit to His plan

C) Easy to resist the temptation to take short cuts – accomplish YOUR WILL – instead of His will

1) Your plan instead of HIS PLAN

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

A) The Devil leaves but like Arnold used to say – I will be back

B) We shall see He comes back in several forms

1) The People will try to take Jesus by force and make him King

C) There is the time when in Nazareth His home town – crowds tried to push him off a cliff

D) Then there is the time when Jesus is talking to his disciples –about the cross – suffering – die

1) Peter pulls him aside and rebukes him – don't talk like that – downer man!!!

E) Jesus' response: Get behind me SATAN!

1) Weird response: The Devil was using Peter

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

A) Why did John get into prison? Well it's because John was not a very politically correct DUDE

B) There was **a guy named Herod Antipas** – ruling in Jerusalem

1) Herod Antipas had a liking for his brother Herod Phillip's wife named Herodias.

C) Herod Antipas was married - **but he likes his brothers wife better than his own wife.**

1) So he kicked out his wife and he stole Herod Philip's wife Herodias away from him and they hooked up.

John the Baptist heard about it and denounced him – called them a sinner, so God's going to judge you for that.

A) Again not very politically correct.

B) As a favor to Herodias, Herod had him locked into prison.

1) John would eventually die in prison –beheaded.

C) When Herod had him locked into prison, to Jesus this was a sign. It's time to go public; my forerunner's ministry is over.

D) So when Jesus Hears that John is arrested he knows it is time to begin his public ministry.

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

"Palestine had three major provinces.

A) Galilee was the northernmost province.

B) It contained beautiful lakes, forests, and mountains. Most of Jesus' ministry was conducted in this province.

C) It was there in Galilee that Jesus began his public ministry –

Capernaum, the town where Peter lived.

A) It's where his brother Andrew lived; it's where the Zebedee boys lived, James and John.

B) It's where Matthew lived, the tax collector.

C) You can go to Israel today and see the mile marker where the Roman government used to collect taxes in Capernaum.

D) That is the place where Matthew stood when Jesus called him FOLLOW ME!

1) Because that's where tax collectors set up shop

SO JESUS set up his headquarters in Capernaum

A) Great spot on the shores of the sea of Galilee

B) The sea of Galilee is my favorite place to be in Israel – still rural – similar to the time of Jesus

C) Next trip actually hope to stay on the water – afternoon swims

13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 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.”

Now notice it's to fulfill a prophecy given by Isaiah in Chapter 9 and notice what it's called The Galilee of the Gentiles.

A) Galilaia tōn ethnōn is the Greek word.

B) Now Ethnon, Ethnos sounds like ethnic right? Ethnic comes from Ethnos, Ethnon.

C) It means literally the Galilee of the nations!

That to me is significant because it is letting us know Jesus came to be the Messiah for the nations.

A) Not just Israel. He came for all the World

B) HIS ministry would have a worldwide scope that he had come to be the savior of the world,

Now it says V. 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And upon those who sat on the region and shadow of death the light has dawned.

A) This is interesting because the Galilee was known by the Jews in Jerusalem as the region of death.

B) Reason: that Northern section of Israel, the Galilee region had seen more wars.

1) Enemies would come in from the North and infiltrate the land

C) The Assyrians have come that way, and the Babylonians had come that way.

D) Galilee became more of a mixed multitude, mixed marriages, not the pure bred like down in Jerusalem.

1) The Jews in Jerusalem looked at those in Galilee as HICKS – Funny accents

Recall when Peter was speaking after Jesus was arrested the servant girl of the high priest?

A) She says, You were one of his disciples "I can hear by the way you're speaking.

B) It was his speech that gave him away – it was his Galilean accent.

1) And those down South in Jerusalem didn't take kindly to those Galileans.

C) This again is fascinating to me: Jesus sets up his headquarters in the place that was the offscouring, 1) That was the scourge/ that was the outcast of the land, the place of darkness.

Jesus focuses a great deal of his ministry time in the place Where all the outcast lived.

A) Where the people who are on the periphery and not recognized by the crowd.

B) To me there's a beautiful message there.

1) You might be that person – you feel like I've been an outcast my whole life.

C) I've always been pushed to the edge, to the periphery. – Never the “IN CROWD”

1) You were always sort of in the darkness and the shadows.

D) It's your heart especially where Jesus wants to

put his headquarters.

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Message: The Kingdom of God is at hand!

A)What does that mean?

B)The Phrases Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven – don’t show up in the Bible until Matthew’s Gospel – strictly NT terminology

C)Here is the idea – Jesus is a King – (King of kings Lord of lords-

1)One day every knee will bow and tongue will confess.....

But at that moment – the Kingdom of Jesus – the Kingdom of God was infiltrating Planet earth – being introduced to Humanity.

A)And what they are going to discover is this – His kingdom is so different from anything they have ever **seen or experienced before!**

B)There is no palace: There is no throne – there is no royal attendants – there is no FLAG

1)He never marched in front of an army – but Jesus was beginning to build a spiritual kingdom.

C)This is why Jesus said in Luke 17:20 “The kingdom of God does not come with observation (with outward, visible trappings); nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

D)If you were a Jew steeped in OT theology you would consider this a most revolutionary thought.

The Jews at the time of Jesus longed for the final coming of God's Kingdom, but had no idea of its initial invasion.

A)It’s spiritual. Before Jesus rules over *institutions*, He rules over *individuals*.

B)Before He occupies *halls of power*, He occupies the *hearts of people*.

1)Before the King sits on an earthly throne, He occupies the throne in human hearts.

C)So too Today, God’s kingdom comes when people come under the DIRECTION of King Jesus,

1)Bow to His will, and allow His grace to transform their world.

D)WE will see Jesus said when we Pray: **Your kingdom come – your will be done!**

To pray **“Your kingdom come”** is not only to look forward to a day yet future,

A)But it’s to ask Jesus to reign right now over *our marriages, our families, our work, our emotions, our play, our thoughts, our money...*

B)It’s to pray, **“Lord, permeate all of my life with your love and truth!”**

B)Author Max Lucado puts it, “When you say, “Thy kingdom come”... you are inviting the Messiah Himself to walk into your world... Take your throne in our land. Be present in my heart. Be present in my office. Come into my marriage. Be Lord of my family, fears, and doubts. This is no feeble request; it’s a bold appeal for God to occupy every corner of your life.”

So Jesus is announcing the Beginning of His Kingdom –

A)The Jews thought the reign of God would fall like a *hammer, and pound out God’s will,*

1)but Jesus says here it starts with a Word –

B)His Kingdom does not begin in the form of a war, but a word – a message – an invitation.

C) So When Jesus says repent and believe, it is not in the form of a command – but an INVITATION.

1)Which means *the kingdom of God can be resisted*

D)Jesus wants everyone to be a part of His Kingdom – but He doesn’t force anyone to be a part of it.

1)IT IS YOUR CHOICE!!!!!!!!!!!!

E)Jesus says the kingdom OF GOD requires our cooperation.

1)He requires a willingness

So that was Jesus’ message – Preaching the good news of the Kingdom

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.

Simon Peter’s Fishing Co.

**Fishing was their life. – Every day was about
Where to go fishing –**

A) Best place – best bait – best time – where to sell

19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

A) Interesting phrase, Literally - *I will make you to become!* it speaks of transformation.

B) Jesus was saying to these guys that in following Him they would develop a new mindset ! His mindset /

C) There are two verses that really sum up the ministry of Jesus

Luke 19:10 “The son of man has come to seek and save the Lost.”

D) Mark 10:45 “Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Jesus is saying: I want you to see life differently – Life is about who is saved and who is lost!

A) I want you to see people differently – Not about what I can get – but what I can give.

B) You see prior to this call these guys lived to fish / occupation their whole life was about fishing !

C) Each day brought about a new challenge of where was the best place to fish / how could they catch more fish / what was best way to fish

D) But Jesus was challenging them to see that there was something better than fishing for fish ! **It was fishing for men !**

1) So He said *follow me & I will make you to become fishers of men !*

E) In other words *follow me & the natural result will be that you will see people the way I do !*

1) Love them w/ my love / reach them for my kingdom

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

IMMEDIATELY

KJV = Straightway: without hesitation

A) Best way to follow the Lord – Don’t hesitate

B) Hesitation gives opportunity to talk yourself out of doing whatever God is calling you to do

1) Rationalize why it won’t work

C) Hesitation gives opportunity for the Devil to discourage: DISTRACT

1) Listen when God speaks – Respond Immediately

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

THIS TIME IT IS Zebedee and sons fishing Co.

James and John are brothers – they are with their pop – family business -

A) This is harder: how can we leave dad high and dry?

B) DID Zebedee resist - did he encourage?

1) My dad: Jesus is calling you to do something you will never be happy until you are doing it!

22 and immediately **they left the boat and their father**, and followed Him.

This is a Pattern that we see often in scripture:

A) Following Jesus often means leaving something

B) Matthew’s conversion we read in Luke 5:27

27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." 28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

C) Notice that order - He left all - then He rose up and followed Him !

I believe that order is significant & worth noting

A) because we need to understand that there needs to be a leaving before there can be a rising.

B) I THINK OF WHAT PAUL SAID IN PHIL 3

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

C) Paul was referring to his old life as a Pharisees / as a religious man who did not have a relationship w/ God

1) Paul was a man who had accomplished so much in the flesh

C) But Paul says *forgetting what lies behind*

1) I have to leave that mindset – that confidence in order to be who Jesus wants me to be in Him.

D) Paul illustrating there that before a person can go forward in the Lord - before he can go upward in Jesus

1) There has to be a **letting go of the past** - Before there can be a **looking ahead** to the future !

E) A lot of people don't get this: they end up spiritually – handicapped

I have watched many people who have been limited in ministry - or held back & weighed down in their Christianity – NO JOY

A) Because they were not willing to leave something behind

B) **For some it was a secret sin** - a “ little compromise “ **Gray areas”**

1) For others it was an attitude of bitterness & unforgiveness

C) FOR OTHERS a fear / OR a lack of trust or some misconception they have about the Lord

1) that is causing them to not truly rise up & follow

Listen THE FREESEST PEOPLE are the ones who have learned to LEAVE THINGS BEHIND!

A) Can't experience all that the Lord has for us until we are willing to do that

B) And why do we try to hold on to things – that are going to perish anyway.

C) Jim Elliot *"He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."*

D) The People who soar the highest in the kingdom presently & those who will be the greatest in the kingdom in eternity

1) Are those who've learned to leave stuff behind! Jesus calls and these guys immediately respond –

A) You tonight ?

Interesting to me that of the twelve men Jesus called, at least seven were fishermen.

A) Makes sense: There are similar qualities to be used in fishing for fish or fishing for men.

#1 Patience – Wait – pray – plant – wait

#2 Persistence – One day don't catch any fish the next day you are at it again.

#3 Right Bait – The gospel

#4 Skill - need some skill – need to know what you are doing - Same is true – Gospel -

A) But neither are rocket science –

B) Gospel simple and Powerful

#5 Faith fishing demands faith:

A) Fishermen cannot see the fish and are not sure their nets will enclose them.

B) But they cast them out – believing they are there and their method will work

C) Soul-winning requires faith as well - Share – believing in the power of the message

So Jesus calls these guys who were fishermen – and some of the same skills would be used in ministry.

A) He does that- Where you are working now – is training for what he has for you later.

B) But note: He calls guys who were working – they weren't sitting around waiting for a calling

C) I have seen this over and over again – People that Jesus calls into full time ministry are typically people who were productive in their professions

Now there is one more Subtle insight in the text that is easy to miss:

A) I find it interesting that Peter and Andrew were **casting their nets** into the sea when Jesus called them.

B) On the other hand, James and John were **mending nets.**

C) So what you say: Well casting the nets is a beautiful picture of evangelism

1) Throwing out the net – throwing out the bait – see who Bites

D)The ministry of Peter and Andrew was evangelism, as evidenced by **Andrew repeatedly bringing people to Christ,**

1)Peter preached – Andrew brought people to Jesus

James and John were mending their nets

A)Mending the nets is a great picture of body ministry –

B)Coming alongside to repair – broken people, marriages, situations.

1)John definitely had that type of ministry

C)James didn't live to long -

D)Sons of Thunder –mellowed out – John the apostle of love

I simply point that out because there is diversity in the body of Christ!

A)We are all called to share our faith – but some are gifted at EVANGELISM

B)Others are gifted at Discipleship –

1)Body functions: Some plant – some water – some harvest

C)Some Preach – others teach

D)Some are good at inspiring – others are good at training –

E)But the Lord will use each of you according to your own temperament, personality and gifting.

For Example – I know that my primary gift is MENDING – brain operates –

A)See scripture in light of the church – primarily – **Building body – training**

B)But I love evangelism – Plane – Easter in the park

1)Coffee shop in Oregon – Something happens to you when you preach there.

C)But 90% of the time – Focus leans toward body ministry.

God wants to take you and the way that He has wired you and use it for His glory!

A)Some of you have a heart for the lost – great with people – talk to people easily – Dad on the golf course.

B)Others of you – given you a heart for the church – love the body

C)We all do what is our part and Jesus is glorified

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

His fame was spreading: The regions listed in that last verse – draw a 100 mile perimeter.

A) “Decapolis” means “ten cities” and was a district made up of ten cities originally built by followers of Alexander the Great.

B)The Decapolis was in the northeastern part of Galilee.

1)“**Beyond Jordan**” means Perea, the area east of the Jordan.

C)Think about that people traveling over 100 miles to come and see Jesus – hear Jesus preach.

His fame is spreading:

A)The good news of the Kingdom is being preached

B)Hope is near!

C)The message our world needs to hear today.

It is not doom and gloom – Jesus is working all over the world

A)People in Muslim countries having dreams and coming to Christ

B)God is pouring out His spirit in these last days

C)Open receptors – Him to fill and Him to Jesus