

Matthew 4

ASVh with Comments

Summary. After the Lord Jesus was attested to the people as the Son of God in Chapter 3, here in Chapter 4, our Lord Jesus is tempted by the devil. As a man, the Lord Jesus goes through three major temptations: 1) The temptation of the flesh, 2) The temptation of pride, and 3) The temptation of easy life and laziness. Going through these temptations, the Lord shows us the key to fighting temptations, stand firm on the Word of God: “It is written” is His reply to each temptation. Following the temptations, three more important events are given in this chapter. 1) The Lord Jesus begins His ministry in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali and fulfills one of Isaiah’s prophecies. Here, it is to be noted that the Lord Jesus begins His ministry alone by preaching, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 2) The Lord Jesus calls His first disciples. Note that His first disciple to call is Simon Peter. 3) The Lord Jesus continues His ministry throughout Galilee and performs miraculous healings, and great multitudes start to follow Him.

4 ¹ At that time **Jesus** was led up by the **Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Comments 4:1. The Lord Jesus was one hundred percent human. Temptation comes to everyone. The Lord Jesus was led by the Spirit to be tempted as every human would be, so He is an example for us of how to overcome temptation.

For the temptation of the Lord Jesus, see also Comments Luke 4:1-13.

² And when **He** had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward **He** hungered.

Comments 4:2. “... afterward He hungered.” This fast was a food fast; nothing that had taste was taken, only water.

³ And the tempter **having come** said to **Him**, If **Thou** are the **Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.

Comments 4:3. This temptation is the temptation of the satisfaction of the flesh, a big temptation for all humans. When they are hungry, humans can do anything to satisfy their hunger.

⁴ But **answering**, **He** said, It is written,

Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every **spoken-word coming** out of the mouth of **God**.

Comments 4:4. The Lord Jesus tells us that food for the soul is more important than food for the stomach.

⁵ Then the devil **takes Him** to the holy city; and **sets Him** on the pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ and **says to Him**, If **Thou** are the **Son of God**, cast **Thyself** down; for it is written that,

He will command His angels concerning **Thee**, and,

On their hands they **will bear Thee** up,

lest haply **Thou** dash **Thy** foot against a stone.

Comments 4:6. This temptation is the temptation to prove that you are somebody important, which is a hard temptation for humans.

⁷ **Jesus** said to him, Again it is written, **You shall not tempt the Lord your God**.

Comments 4:7. On earth, the Lord Jesus came to obey His Father and do the Father’s will. By not challenging the Lord, you admit that you are the Lord’s servant, and you keep your pride under control.

⁸ Again, the devil takes **Him** to a **very** high mountain, and shows **Him** all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

⁹ and he said to **Him**, All these things will I give **Thee**, if **Thou** will worship me **falling** down.

Comments 4:9. This temptation is the temptation of an easy life and laziness, a hard temptation for all humans.

¹⁰ Then **Jesus** says to him, **Depart Satan**; for it is written,

You must worship the Lord your God,

and **Him** alone you must serve.

Comments 4:10. “For it is written.” The Father’s word has power. The Lord Jesus abides by the Father’s word only. The Lord Jesus listened and obeyed the Father in everything to the point of death.

“You must worship the Lord your God ...” Only through the Lord you can fight evil. You need to make a commitment to serve the Lord all of your life.

¹¹ Then the devil **leaves Him**; and behold, angels came and ministered **to Him**.

¹² Now when **He** heard that John was delivered up, **He** withdrew **to** Galilee;

Comments 4:12. John’s duty was to prepare the way for the Lord. John’s arrest marked the beginning of the Lord’s ministry.

¹³ and leaving Nazareth, **He** came and dwelt **at** Capernaum, by the sea, in the **region** of Zebulun and Naphtali,

¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Comments 4:13-14. The Lord Jesus Himself, always one thing He will do, He will fulfill whatever the Father has given to the prophets. The obedience to the Father is the key for the Lord Jesus to come on earth. All the prophecies of the Father will be done in all things. If you follow the Lord Jesus, the main thing is to listen and obey.

¹⁵ The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

Way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,

¹⁶ The people **who were sitting** in darkness

Have seen a great light,
And **to those sitting** in the **land** and shadow of death,
To them, **a light has sprung up**.

Comments 4:15-16. These are people that did not hear about the Lord. The Lord Jesus always performed miracles to guide them to the light of life. The Lord Jesus is the light for them.

¹⁷ From that time **Jesus** began to **proclaim**, and to say, Repent; for the kingdom of heavens **has drawn near**.

¹⁸ **Now** walking **beside** the Sea of Galilee, **He** saw two **brothers**, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were **fishermen**.

¹⁹ And **He** says **to** them, Come **follow** after **Me**, and **I** will make you fishers of men.

²⁰ And **immediately having** left the nets, **they** followed **Him**.

²¹ And 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, **preparing** their nets; and **He** called them.

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

Comments 4:20-22. The Lord Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and they respond immediately. This shows simple faith, just a simple call, and they follow the Lord Jesus immediately.

²³ And **He was going throughout** all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom, and healing **every** disease and **every** sickness among the people.

Comments 4:23. “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom ...” The whole Bible is His word; the Lord didn’t have much time on earth; therefore, He summarized to the people what the Bible teaches.

²⁴ And the **news** of **Him** went **out** into all Syria; and they brought **to Him** all that were sick, **having various** diseases and torments, possessed **by** demons, and epileptics, and **paralytics**; and **He** healed them.

Comments 4:24. The news about the Lord Jesus has spread by word of mouth.

²⁵ And followed **Him** great multitudes from Galilee, and Decapolis, and Jerusalem, and Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

Comments 4:25. People in those days had a simple faith. They left everything behind and followed the Lord Jesus.

Life and Faith Applications. 1) The Lord Jesus is our example of how to fight temptation; to fight temptation, we must rely on the Bible and stand firm on what the Bible teaches. 2) It is paramount to understand that the Lord Jesus is the only way to heaven, and He holds the selection scale for who goes to heaven and who goes to hell.