

Matthew 4:1 - 4:25

Chapter 4 is the second of two chapters depicting the beginning stages of Christ's early ministry. This chapter is divided into four sections.

**Section 1.** Verses 1- 11 detail the temptations of Christ by "the tempter" (identified in verses 10-11 as Satan, and the devil). This event is also described in Luke 4:1-13, and Mark 1:12-13.

*1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. 3 Then the tempter approached Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

*4 He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

*5 Then the devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand 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 will give his angels orders concerning you,  
and they will support you with their hands  
so that you will not strike  
your foot against a stone."*

*7 Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God."*

*8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 And he said to Him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."*

*10 Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."*

*11 Then the devil left Him, and angels came and began to serve Him.*

**Section 2.** Next is Christ's withdrawal to Galilee, (vv. 12-17). In verse 12 we see the conclusion of John the Baptist's ministry, and in verse 17 we see where Jesus continues preaching of repentance by repeating John's message from the previous chapter (Mt. 3:2). Verses 13-16 depict the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy where the regions of Naphtali and Zebulun will be honored, (Isaiah 9:1-2). The land around the Sea of Galilee and the region in Capernaum were previously identified by their tribal land allocation to the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun.

*12 When He heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:*

*15 Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
along the road by the sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles.  
16 The people who live in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those living in the land of the shadow of death,  
a light has dawned.*

*17 From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

**Section 3.** In verses 18-22 we see the calling of the four fishermen: Simon (Peter) and Andrew first, then James and John (the sons of Zebedee).

*18 As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 "Follow me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.*

*21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and He called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.*

**Section 4.** In the final section (23-25), we have the summary of Christ's early ministry. Matthew repeats verse 23 almost verbatim in Chapter 9:35. In both instances, these verses lead into major discourses of Jesus (the Sermon on the Mount, and the Commissioning of the 12 disciples).

*23 Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 Then the news about Him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to Him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And He healed them. 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.*