

Jesus Begins Public Ministry after Facing Temptation

1. What similarities and differences do you see between Jesus' temptations and those Adam and Eve faced in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-6)? How are His temptations similar to those we face (1 John 2:16)? What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 teach us about all this?
2. What powerful spiritual weapon did the Lord Jesus use when faced with the devil's temptations (4, 7, 10) How did the devil try to mimic Jesus' approach in his second temptation? (6) What can you learn from all this in your own battles with temptation?
3. Was the temptation of Jesus designed to determine if He could sin, or to demonstrate that He could not sin? What difference does your answer to this question make?
4. Once Jesus completed this period of temptation, what blessing did He receive from heaven? (11) How can this encourage you or give you hope when you face difficult temptations?
5. Matthew quotes Isaiah 9:1-2 to show his readers another way Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time he has quoted the OT like this so far, and it will be the last time he does it in our series covering chapters 1-7. How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy? (14-16)
6. In verse 17 Jesus preaches the same exact message that John the Baptist had preached in 3:2. So let's review what they both said. What does "repent" mean? What is "the kingdom of heaven"? What does it mean that the kingdom is "at hand"?
7. In verses 18-22, Jesus called four men to follow Him, and they did so immediately. What changes did this decision bring to the lives of these four men from that point on? How is your life different since you answered Jesus' call to follow Him?
8. What does it mean in today's world to be "fishers of men"? (19) How could we apply the fishing techniques the four disciples were using, of "casting a net into the sea" (18) and "mending their nets" (21), to our role as fishers of men today?
9. Describe the different kinds of people Jesus healed (23-24). What does this tell you about the people who probably made up the "large crowds" who "followed Him" in verse 25?
10. A lot has happened here in chapter 4. What is one thing you would like to apply in your own life from this chapter?