

## Day One – Recap of Matthew 3:13 – 4:11

There had to come some point in time when Jesus goes from being “Savior?!?” to “Savior!,” if I can draw that distinction. If either Jesus or John had any lingering doubts about who Jesus is, this episode served to clear those up. Jesus’ baptism was sort of like his coronation. Israel was a son, but not one in whom God was well-pleased. Jesus stands in contrast to Israel, and He will be the one who fulfills his responsibility to God and is faithful to His calling. Israel passed through the water of the Red Sea and then fell victim to the snares of Satan and their own fear. Jesus will not.

Immediately upon receiving this stamp of approval and commissioning, Jesus is led *by the Spirit* into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. So much for “your best life now”... Israel also endured a wilderness experience where they wandered in rebellion for 40 years, but Christ had done nothing to “deserve” such treatment. Instead he fasted for 40 days, assuming extreme frailty, for a true son will be willing and able to confront Satan on his own turf and remain faithful. This is exactly what Christ did, passing the first major test of his ministry.

Should we, like Christ, have allowed Scripture to so permeate our lives that we respond to any temptation by quoting an appropriate verse? Yes, I think so. Should we try to get there? Absolutely. Will we ever so closely walk with the Spirit? I don’t think so. You can’t usually go wrong with trying to imitate Christ, but you can definitely go wrong in missing the point that WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO COME CLOSE. I hope this is a comforting thought. Cling to Him as the only one who can answer the very words of Satan and shut his evil mouth.

## Day Two – Read 4:12-25

Mark or make a list of every reference to Jesus and what he did.

Mark every reference to the geological locations.

Read Luke 4:24, 29. What do you learn about Nazareth?

Why do you think Jesus started His public ministry in Galilee? Read John 7:41, 52.

Now read Isaiah 9:1-2. Does this change your thoughts about why Jesus started His public ministry in Galilee?

Read John 1:4-9, 8:12, 9:5. How was Jesus the light?

How has Jesus been the light in your life?

### **Day Three – Read 4:12-25**

Mark or make a list of every reference to time, i. e. now, from that time, immediately, etc.

Divide these verses and title each section.

According to verse 17, what is Jesus' message?

Do you think this message should be preached today, or is it too harsh or judgmental? Why, or why not?

### **Day Four – Read Matthew 4:18-21**

Who did Jesus call to follow Him?

What do learn about them from the text?

What was their response to the call of Jesus?

Does Jesus call people to follow Him today? Has He called you? What was your response?

## **Day Five – Read Matthew 4:22-25**

What did Jesus do as He went through Galilee?

Why do you think He was able to do these things throughout all Galilee without much, if any, opposition?

What purpose did His ability to heal disease and affliction have in His ministry?

What is the gospel of the kingdom that He proclaimed?

Where is Christ's kingdom (today)? Are you a citizen of the kingdom?

Is there coming a day of judgment?

***You will not escape judgment in that coming day if you turn your back on the King now.***

## Day Six

If you are looking to go a little bit deeper in your understanding of the text for this week, try one of these resources:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=1>

<http://www.evangelibrary.org.uk/members/com/nt/jcr/mt/mat-Index.html>

### **Sermons Transcripts:**

Ligon Duncan - [http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/index\\_Matthew\\_vol\\_1-2.html](http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew_vol_1-2/matthew_vol_1-2/index_Matthew_vol_1-2.html)

### **Audio:**

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/14/>

S. Lewis Johnson - [http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew\\_master.html](http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew_master.html)