

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## MATTHEW 4:12-25

### LESSON: TEACHING AND HEALING — January 13, 2019

#### INTRODUCTION:

**4:4-11** Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Spirit. He didn't eat anything for 40 days and 40 nights. Satan, the devil, the tempter came to Him with three temptations.

THE TEPMTATION:	THE SOLUTION: IT IS WRITTEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turn these stones into bread (tempting the flesh).</li> <li>2. Cast Yourself down from this pinnacle (tempting the pride of life; fame).</li> <li>3. Fall down and worship me, the devil (tempting the lust of the eyes-can have it all).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God 4:4.</li> <li>2. Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God 4:7.</li> <li>3. Get thee hence...Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve 4:10.</li> </ol>

Jesus does not hesitate on any. He says, "IT IS WRITTEN!" The primary focus is doing the Will of God when tempted by the enemy. He does not compromise. As children of God, this will show you, who you are and who God is in you. Jesus, who was both God and man, by Him resisting the enemy, shows us that it can be done; not in our power alone, but in the power of His might Eph.6:10.

- As a man, He was filled with the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove Matt.3:16).
- As a man He confessed the Word of God (It is written Matt.4).
- As a man, He was hungered (fasted 40 days and 40 nights Matt.4:2).
- As a man, He prayed and kept in constant contact with the Father.

Every trial and temptation is for our learning and example, because at the end the devil had to leave (flee). When He said away from me Satan, Satan had to leave. When He endured the temptations, and didn't give in, Satan had to leave. When He submitted first to God and resisted the devil, the devil had to flee. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it" 1Corth.10:13. God always has someone to minister to us in our time of need. Jesus did not minister to Himself. —"...Behold, angels came and ministered unto him" Matt.4:11. This was a time of complete exhaustion for Jesus. As the enemy departs, he departs for a season, meaning that there would be other temptations, but for now we have the victory because of Jesus! One of the blessings of having Jesus as our Savior is His ability to comfort and aid those who are tempted. He is sympathetic, and can provide mercy and grace to help in the time of need (Heb. 4:14-16). This is because He too was tempted (Heb. 2:18).

#### LESSON: I. CONQUERING THE DARKNESS MATTHEW 4:12-17

**4:12** Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;—

Whether we believe it or not, God shows or gives us signs to start being about our Father's business. Well, this was Jesus' sign—John's imprisonment! God showed Jesus the time of when He was to begin His ministry, for it was certainly after the wilderness experience. God always has a right timing. That's why Jesus shows us that He had to begin with fasting and prayer. It is important when we are led into the desert. If you don't count the cost in a business and you get so far in it that you might want to turn tail and run; you want to give it up, but, starting at God's right timing, you can never go wrong. How would it seem if Jesus was perceived competing with John? John had prepared the way in the wilderness, and after preparing the way, John had to remove

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himself. It seems that John had to decrease while Jesus increased. This was not the way John wanted to leave his ministry, but God allowed him to be imprisoned. God had prepared Jesus to be in Galilee down through history for the coming and beginning of His Son's ministry.

**4:13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:**— Nazareth is a town in Galilee, 70 miles north of Jerusalem. Jesus left Nazareth (Jesus' hometown). The reason? - The city had rejected Christ and rose up and threw him out of the city (Lk.4:29). Jesus then came to Capernaum which is on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim. And Capernaum became the home base for Jesus' ministry.

**4:14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,**— This refers to the coming of Christ into Galilee in fulfillment of the prophecy spoken of in Isaiah 9:1-2.

**4:15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;**— This comes from verse 1 of Isaiah 9. Jesus went to people in needy lands like Zabulon, and Nephthalim by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

**4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.** This comes from verse 2 of Isaiah 9. Jesus took people who sat in darkness. They were showed a great light. They had dwelt in the region and the shadow of death hovered over them. Rejecting the Word and not hearing the Word of God will cause darkness and death, but Jesus took people out of that situation by bringing His light to spring up and shine upon them.

**4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** From then on Jesus began to preach "*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" This happened in Capernaum around the sea coast of Zabulon and Nephthalim, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. He preached to the lost, telling them the same message as John had preached (Matthew 3:2). So...

1. Christ preached repentance. They were to turn from sin and turn to God. John began as the fore-runner to this same message, and it should be the same for us today.
2. Christ preached the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, as did John the Baptist (3:2). Jesus is announcing that the time has been fulfilled and that the Kingdom of heaven is now at hand—meaning today! The Jews of Jesus' day were always looking forward to the coming of a Messiah who would reign in a Davidic kingdom on earth, and His rule would be welcomed on earth. And this meant to be in the kingdom of heaven you had to repent today. The kingdom of Heaven surpasses the kingdom of this world in two ways.
  1. The Kingdom of Heaven is eternal. It is not physical and corruptible, lasting just for a season. It is a world in another dimension of being. It last forever rather than the kingdom of this world.
  2. The Kingdom of Heaven brings wealth and assurance forever, rather than the wealth in the kingdom of this world which fades away with no stable assurance.

## II. CALLING DISCIPLES MATTHEW 4:18-22

**4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.** Two ordinary brethren are seen by Jesus as He walks by the Sea of Galilee. They were not in the religious center; not in a position of authority nor did they possess wealth, but Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother were fishermen casting their net into the sea. They were brothers who worked together.



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**4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** Jesus announced to them a great statement: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. This meant for them to leave their business and livelihood of fishing and go with Jesus who made them a promise to become fishers of men, that is, to save men's souls. These were the first disciples to be called.

**4:20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.** You know, this sounds like they didn't have a chance to think about this, for it says straightway, meaning they left their nets and immediately followed Jesus. This meant that this was so tempting and something intriguing that it drew their hearts to Him in such a special way. Jesus would be the One who would personally train them to bring men into the kingdom. There are many called, but few are chosen.

**4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.** The second men chosen to be disciples were two brethren—James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Now, they were they were obedient sons working with their father on his ship mending their nets, and Jesus called them. The point is that obedience is essential, both as a child and as a servant.

**4:22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.** There was no fanfare or demonstration to influence to draw these men to Jesus. He didn't even say I'll make you fishers of men, but at His Word, His call, His voice, His Spirit that caused the drawing; that they wanted to seek for more, to where they immediately left the ship and their father and followed Jesus. Wow! Some need more emotional calls than others, and some need just a simple call because God knows where the heart is and what the heart needs.

## III. COMMENCING THE MISSION MATTHEW 4:23-25

**4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.** A successful ministry is a ministry that follows in the footsteps of Jesus. Three things can be looked at in this scripture.

1. Jesus went throughout all Galilee. He had a plan and He set out to do it in the region of Galilee. He was obedient and faithful to the mission He was called on earth to do. The assignment was to the region of Galilee.
2. Jesus went teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. There had to be a ready audience to hear the gospel. The synagogue was the most important institution in the life of a Jew, and that's where Jesus went. It was their center of worship.
3. Jesus healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. People's needs were being met with very special care, and they were being met rapidly in a concentrated effort and area (spiritually and physically).

The great needs of men are threefold (1) to hear the gospel, (2) to be taught the gospel, and (3) to be healed personally. This should be our calling also: to teach, preach, and heal. The works of Christ were His credentials, proof that He was God's Son. The believer's works are his credentials. It is not profession only, for profession without works is empty. A servant must serve.

**4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.** When people hear about something good or bad, it spreads. The people talked about Jesus' fame till it spread throughout all Syria.



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Syria was a great Roman province of which Palestine was a part. Its chief cities were Damascus, Antioch, Byblos, Aleppo, Palmyra, and Carchemish. From hearing the names of these cities we know that Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, and the first great Gentile church was founded at Antioch. It was the church at Antioch which sent out the first missionaries in Christian history and gave the name Christian to believers for the first time (Acts 11:26).

This meant that the gospel taught in one region (Galilee) was carried by those people to Syria which made people from Syria want to hear more, and even come to hear for themselves. You know when a sale is going on; everyone wants to get in on it. Well, with the gospel, everyone may not want it, but they need it! Another example: in a marriage the other spouse has what the other is lacking. Jesus has what we are lacking! Jesus' power is so great. In verse 23, it says He healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And here it says that the people brought all sick people with divers diseases and torments, and those possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic (lunatic), and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. There were three specific healings. They symbolized the power of Christ over the whole man and over the physical universe.

1. There is spiritual healing-- "*those possessed with devils*"—evil spirits; demons.
2. There is mental healing-- "*those which were lunatic*"—crazy; mad.
3. There is physical healing-- "*those that had the palsy*"—paralysis; cripple (muscular condition relating to the brain).

We know that Christ is the Great Physician! That also means that His power through us must be about the ministry of healing the souls, minds, and bodies of men.

**4:25** **And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.** Great multitudes of people began to follow Jesus from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

## SUMMARY:

Upon hearing that John the Baptist had been cast into prison, Jesus went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and dwelt in Capernaum, by the sea coast in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim. The region of Galilee was prophesied by Isaiah. Jesus went to people in needy lands like Zabulon, and Nephthalim by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. He took people which sat in darkness and brought His light to spring up and shine upon them. And from that time Jesus began to preach: Repent: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand where eternal footprints will be! (**4:12-17**).

Jesus began to call followers. The first were Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew who He saw casting their net into the sea. All Jesus said was follow me, and I will make you fishers of men and they immediately left their nets and followed Him. He then came upon two brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee. They were mending their nets working alongside with their father on his ship All Jesus did was call them and they also immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him (**4:18-22**).

Jesus went throughout all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. He healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. His fame soared throughout all Syria. They brought to Him people with divers diseases and torments; those possessed with devils; were lunatic, and those who had the palsy. And He healed them. Great multitudes of people began to follow Jesus from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan (**4:23-25**).

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