

MATTHEW

Chapter Four

A Matter of Identity

Chapter 3

¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

IDENTITY

Chapter 3 ended with Jesus' identity being publicly declared at his baptism.

Even our identity as “children of God” is publicly announced at baptism.

Jesus was the Son of God before baptism. We are already children of God before baptism. But what has happened inside must be made known publicly.

TESTING TIME

Chapter 4

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

“Led by the Spirit.”

We are led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14). We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). This is how the spiritual man knows where he is going.

“Forty days and forty nights.”

To make it clear that He fasted twenty-four hours a day, this expression was vital..

“he was hungry.”

Jesus wasn't cheating: he was fully human.

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him 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 shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' " 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

It was all about questioning Jesus' identity.
It is all about questioning our identity!

1. "If you are the Son of God..."

Human logic: Turn stones into bread.

Word of God: Not by bread alone.

2. "If you are the Son of God..."

False interpretation of the Word: Jump.

Authentic interpretation: As stated by Jesus.

3. The Devil's final attempt: "fall down and worship me."

Jesus stands firm on God's Word: "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

THE RIGHT TIME

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

THE RIGHT PLACE

13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who sat in
darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who
sat in the region and shadow of death Light has
dawned.”

PREACH GOD’S WORD

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



Daniel 2:44

“the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

GET ORGANIZED

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

¹⁹Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ²¹Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

READY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, CONFIRMED BY THE SIGNS

²³And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching *the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. ²⁴Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

THE GOSPEL

Greek. εὐαγγέλιον

- εὐαγγέλιον — good news, gospel.
- εὐαγγελίζω / εὐαγγελίζομαι — to announce or proclaim good news.
- εὐαγγελιστής — one who proclaims the good news, an evangelist.