



The King and His Kingdom

Matthew 4

What a Way to Start!

4:1-11 The 1st act of the King in establishing His Kingdom is:

"Jesus was led by the Spirit to into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights he was famished."

Jesus, in a weakened condition (humbled in body and mind) is tempted by the Tempter.

"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:15

We too are constantly being tempted to sin (1 Thess. 3:5)

and encouraged to resist and endure. (Phil. 2:16)

Note the 1st word out of Satan's mouth: *The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."* Matt 4:3

It is Satan's goal to create doubt the delude us into thinking God is hiding something fun and then to take over ourselves.

Satan's Predicable Pattern:

See Genesis 3:1f **Did God really say ...**

1). Create Doubt 2). Question the integrity of God 3). Replace God's truth with a counterfeit (lie) alternative.

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"Trust in me, just in me, Shut your eyes and trust in me,
You can sleep safe and sound, Knowing I am around
Slip into silent slumber, Sail on a silver mist
Slowly and surely your senses will cease to resist
Trust in me, just in me, Shut your eyes and trust in me.
(The Python's Song from Disney's "Jungle Book")

The 3 Temptations

Satan: Trust me to take care of your hunger

Jesus: There is something more important than food, God's Word feeding the soul.

Satan: Trust me to keep you safe; live a little, let everyone know who you really are!

Jesus: There is no need to put God to the test, I know who he is and who I am...and I know who you are; pure evil!

Satan: Trust me to give you anything the world has to offer, just make me the most important thing in your life.

Jesus: It is time for you to leave! God alone is worthy of worship and it is Him alone I serve, not you.

Note: Satan will not directly attack Jesus again until the Garden.

4:12-25 Jesus chooses his first 4 disciples and starts his ministry.

He preaches: *"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

He chooses: Making four ordinary fishermen "fishers of men."

He performs miracles: "...teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing..."

Key Questions:

1. Satan's work is predictable and obvious, so how come we are still so easily deceived and give into his poisonous lies and empty promises?
2. Here is another of Satan's predictable patterns: He will tempt you then once you cave in, the Tempter becomes the Accuser! How have you seen this in your life?

Next... read and reread Matthew chapters 5 and 6.