

Matthew 4:1-25

“A Tale of Two Kings”

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday Learning Community 2022-2023

Matthew 4 Setting



Kingship Progression in Matthew

- Pedigree (Matthew 1-2:23)
- Proclamation (Matthew 3:1-17)
- Proving Ground (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Policy, Power, People (Matthew 4:12-16:20)

- Matthew 1-4, MacArthur describes the King's Ancestry, Arrival, Adoration, Anticipation, Affirmation, Advantage, Activity

Matthew 4:1-11

“The Proving Ground”

- Jesus led by the Spirit into the wilderness to fast for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - Jesus is hungry [Matt 4:2]
 - Humanity vs. Deity – the stakes are REAL!
 - Confronted by the devil [Gen 3:1; Job 2:4-9]
- Divine testing versus satanic tempting
 - *Peirazo* (test or tempt)
 - God Tests – Revealing Truth [Pro 17:3]
 - Satan Tempts – Altering Truth [Gen 50:20 – Joseph]

Matthew 4:1-11

“The Proving Ground”

- Jesus begins His Kingdom conquest with the Final Boss
 - All of Jesus’ responses come from Deuteronomy 6-8
- Test 1: “Man does not live on bread alone...” [Deu 8:3]
 - **Tempted to doubt God’s Love** [Gen 3:4-5 – Fall]
 - Your circumstance is not your identity
- Test 2: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test” [Deu 6:16]
 - **Tempted to presume God’s Will** [Num 20:12 – Moses; 1 Sam 13:5-11 – Saul]
 - Doubting the faithfulness of God’s Word
- Test 3: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only” [Deu 6:13]
 - **Tempted to doubt God’s Plan** [Exo 16:1-3 – Israel; Matt 16:23 – Peter]
 - The means to the end matter

“The story of the testing in the wilderness is thus an elaborate typological presentation of Jesus as himself the true Israel, the “Son of God” through whom God’s Redemptive purpose for his people is now at last to reach its fulfillment.” – France, p. 128

Galilee: The Messiah revealed in word and deed

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” [Matt 4:17]
 - Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God are the same
 - eg. Letter from the President/white house
- “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” [Matt 4:19]
 - Jesus begins gathering His disciples at the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum
 - Jesus had met them before [John 1:40-42]
 - Jesus uses their skill for a kingdom context
 - Informed faith, not blind faith
- Jesus demonstrates His power over the curse and preaches the good news of the kingdom [Matt 4:23-25]

Discussion Questions

- What form of temptation seems to be the most prevalent in our world today?
- How have your circumstances effected your view of God?
- Who would be in your kingdom entourage?
- What is the cost of discipleship?