

WEEK TWO - Gospel of Matthew Ch. 3:1-4:25

I. Here comes John the Baptist:

1. Centered on Repentance —to change one’s mind and act on that change. Not satisfied with regret or remorse—he wanted evidence of a changed mind and a changed life.
 - Many people came to John with sincere humility, but the Pharisees would not submit, thinking they they were already good enough.

NOTE: John’s purpose was not to excoriate these Jewish leaders but to warn his Christian readers against adopting their views.

2. His authority came from Isaiah 40:3, a voice crying in the wilderness. He preached judgement, just like Elijah had.

3. His (Jesus’) obedience Why was Jesus baptized?
 - a. It gave approval to John’s ministry
 - b. Jesus identified himself with sinners—the very people He came to save
 - c. Prefigured His baptism on the cross

II. The Holy Spirit

- a. Coming as a dove=His ministry of peace (remember Noah sending out doves)

III. The Father

- a. Spoke from heaven three times: At Christ’s baptism, at the Transfiguration, just before Passover and the cross.
- b. Today He speaks to us through His Son

IV. Satan

“If you are the Son of God...”. Chilling echo of the words of the mockers at the foot of the cross.

- a. Temptations show that Jesus is the conqueror, exposing Satan and his tactics and defeated him. Therefore, we can have history over temptation.
- b. Jesus is sympathetic to us in our temptations.

First Temptation: bread into stones

Second Temptation: jump from the top of the temple

Third temptation: shortcut to the Kingdom

V. Christ’s Ministry of Power

Jesus came to Capernaum in Galilee, where many Gentiles also lived. People from this region were suspect, since the Jews lived in close quarters with Gentiles, and so their faithfulness to the Law was questioned. But it made sense for Jesus to come here, as the Gentiles will also hear the Good News.

The phrase “kingdom of heaven” was used 32 times by Matthew, to address Jewish sensitivity about using the name of God. Kingdom of God was used only 5 times.

Calls the first disciples and began His healing ministry.

The first seven disciples were probably all fishermen. Certainly the first four were. Why choose fishermen?