



## Week Three

# Preparation of the King

Matthew 3 - 4:11

### Read and Summarize

Read chapters 3 and 4:1-11. Provide a brief summary in one to two sentences for each chapter, using your own words to capture the main events.

#### Matthew 3

#### Matthew 4:1-11

### Clarifying the Context

1. This week, we meet the messenger about whom prophets had prophesied hundreds of years earlier. Look up Isaiah 40:3. According to this prophesy, what are we told will be the purpose of this messenger?

## Digging into the Details

### *Matthew 3*

- 2.** About 25 to 30 years have passed since chapter 2. In chapter 3, we meet John the Baptist, the messenger.
  - a.** What do we see him doing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.** What message is he proclaiming in verse 2? Rewrite it in your own words.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c.** Look up the word “repent” in a dictionary. Record its definition below.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d.** Why do you think the call to repent would have been central to John's message?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e.** How are John's actions fulfilling the purpose of the prophesied messenger? (See question 1)
  
- 3.** What response do many of the people in Jerusalem and Judea have to John and his message? (verses 5-6)

- 4.** In verses 7-10, John has strong words for the religious leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees). Answer the following questions in your own words:
- a.** What does he accuse them of NOT doing in verse 8?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.** What does he rebuke them for presuming in verse 9?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c.** What warning does John give them in verse 10?
- 5.** In verses 11-12, John makes a distinction between his identity and baptism with that of Jesus and His baptism. Summarize what he says in your own words.
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- 6.** In verses 13-17, Jesus comes to be baptized by John.
- a.** What is John's initial reaction to this?

**b.** What does Jesus give John as the reason that this must happen?

**c.** What do you think that means?

**7.** Describe what happens immediately after Jesus is baptized. Why do you think these things would have been significant?

*Matthew 4: 1-11*

**8.** After Jesus' baptism, we read that He was "led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." How should this information shape our understanding of Jesus' temptation?

**9.** What was Jesus doing in the wilderness (according to verse 2), and what does this tell us about His physical state at the time of Satan's tempting?

- 10.** Describe each of the three temptations Satan presents to Jesus, the deeper thing to which Satan is appealing in that temptation, and how Jesus responds to each.

**Temptation 1**

- a.** What is it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b.** What is the deeper thing to which Satan is appealing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c.** How does Jesus respond?

**Temptation 2**

- a.** What is it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b.** What is the deeper thing to which Satan is appealing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c.** How does Jesus respond?

### **Temptation 3**

**a.** What is it?

**b.** What is the deeper thing to which Satan is appealing?

**c.** How does Jesus respond?

**11.** Compare Jesus' responses and the outcomes of these temptations to Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 3). List the differences below. What does this show you about Jesus?

**12.** Jesus combats every temptation from Satan with a truth from scripture.

**a.** How does this challenge/encourage you when you think about temptations in your own life?

**b.** What is a test or temptation you are facing right now?

- c. What is the deeper thing to which Satan may be appealing in that test or temptation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. What truth from God's Word can help you resist that temptation and stand strong in the face of trial? Write it out below, and consider also writing it somewhere you will see it often.

#### Attribute of God & Application

- What did this week's study reveal to you about King Jesus and His Kingdom?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do these chapters encourage or challenge you in your life currently?

**Spend some time praising God for who He is and for what He has done.  
Ask Him to help you as you seek to live in light of His Word this week.**

