

MATTHEW 4 vs 1

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In the previous chapter, we learned about Jesus, the Lord of Glory who in great humility was baptized by his cousin John, who was being spied on by the religious leaders of the day. And God just declared: This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

The Temptation of Jesus,

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

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

³ And when the tempter came to Him, he said, If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread / this loser of eternity, knew Jesus is the Son of God; he had no doubts, he was harassing the very famished Jesus who had finished fasting, denying Himself, the previous month.

⁴ But He answered and said, It is written, Man will not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Deuteronomy 8 **Strike 1**

⁵ Then the devil took him up into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And said to him, If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down: for it is written, He will give his angels charge concerning You: and in their hands they will lift You up, lest You dash Your foot against a stone. / was the eternal loser sarcastically singing this psalm 91, attempting to taunt the Lord Jesus?

⁷ Jesus said to him, again it is written, You will not tempt the Lord your God / yet another time for the loser of eternity, his dumb plan didn't work. **Strike 2**

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them / the kingdoms of this world are currently the devil's rightful playground, but not for long; and 2000 years after this event definitely aren't that glorious;

⁹ and said to Him, All these things I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me / and hearing that fool, did Jesus laugh uncontrollably?

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, Get your carcass out of here, Satan: for it is written, you will worship the Lord your God, and Him only will you serve. **Strike 3 – the loser lost again**

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

¹² Now when Jesus had heard that John / the Baptizer was thrown into prison,



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He departed to Galilee;

¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is on the sea coast, at the borders of Zebulon and Naphtali / the northeast region where some of Jacob's children had settled:

¹⁴ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet,

saying / and Matthew quotes from Isaiah written 700 years earlier,

¹⁵ The land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali, beyond the Jordan, by the way of the sea -
- Galilee of the Gentiles / that's where Jesus relocated;

¹⁶ **The people who sat in darkness saw a great light**; and those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light sprung up.

¹⁷ **From that time** / when John the Baptist was imprisoned; the prophet Malachi, speaking for the LORD, wrote: I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; well, John had done his part. Now it was time for Jesus to take center stage.

Jesus began to preach and to say, METANOEO / and I bet, He's a good preacher... because I know He's a good Teacher, / can we all say: METANOEO? It is the Greek word for THE terrible word... that crept into our language... which primarily suggests: to **pain**... and **distress**... and **pain again**; in other words: to **re-pain**, you know: **repent**... it's a terrible word!

Now... never in a million years could I imagine Jesus, the good Teacher... using that word! That kind of goofy word is not in His vocabulary! METANOEO... is from 2 Greek roots: **meta** = **change** + **noeo** = **mind**... because Jesus knows: **only a changed mind leads to a changed heart**. The closest single word would be: **rethink**... **reconsider**... or **remind**... all helpful words for students going to school... who are hopefully life-long learners.

METANOEO... (NOTICE: He did NOT say: pain yourself! He said: **rethink**, **reconsider**

Kindergarten and first grade teachers are amazing. They can patiently sit every day for years, and challenge little kids to do their math, and finally get the answer: **1 + 1 = 2** right... without ever getting upset! Amazing! Any good teacher I've ever met at any school... would want their students to practice METANOEO ...every day in class as they **rethink**... **reconsider**... or **reexamine** their lessons instead of crying in class all day. Well, Jesus is a good Teacher, equally amazing!

From that time / when John the Baptist was imprisoned, **Jesus began to preach, and to say, METANOEO** / **RETHINK!** Change your thinking! I love the Spanish word: **REPENSAR**. If you and I do that every day of our lives... what a different world we will discover; a world Paul wrote about to the Romans:

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those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness... will reign in life -- this life here and now... through one Jesus Christ.

Think about it: promises for students learning their lessons from the great Teacher who said: My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me! Who said, I will build My Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

Jesus began to preach,

and to say, METANOE... **RETHINK! RECONSIDER! for the kingdom of heaven is at hand /** where God our heavenly Father rules... and His influence is made known... Jesus says: **it is very near.** Romans 10 says: Say not in your heart, Who will ascend to heaven? -- that is to bring Christ down or who will descend to the deep -- that is to bring Christ again from the dead. The word is near you, even in your mouth, and your heart: If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!

¹⁸ And 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.

¹⁹ And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

²⁰ And they immediately left their nets, and followed Him / this word is: akoloutheo... G. Campbell Morgan says this word has in focus: the road being traveled. More clearly, this verse could read...

they immediately left their nets, and joined Him in the way He was going / little did they know He was going to the cross, to death and then to resurrection.

²¹ And going on from there, He saw another two brothers James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother / John Wycliffe, the great reformer from the 1300s called these brothers -- cousins of Jesus; John, who became known as the disciple whom Jesus loved,

James... and John his brother... in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them / the Greek is: *kaleo*.... Later Jesus says, I will build My church... using that word: the caller simply walking through the streets... calling people to come out of their homes and pay attention.

He called them

²² And they immediately left the ship and their father, and joined Him in the way He was going / and their father who was probably more than a little annoyed... having to cope with all the stinking, broken fishing nets... as his sons left him.

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²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

²⁴ And his fame went throughout all Syria / which makes you wonder: what happened there?

and they brought to him all sick people who were taken with different diseases and torments, and those who were possessed with demons, and those who were lunatic, and those who had the palsy;

and He healed them.

²⁵ And there joined Him in the way He was going / remember, He was going to the cross,

great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis / in the north, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea / in the south, and from beyond the Jordan / in the east.