

MATTHEW 4

JESUS IS TEMPTED BY SATAN (4:1-11)

St. John Chrysostom on being ready to face temptation:

“All of this was led by the Holy Spirit. For it says Jesus was ‘led by the Spirit.’ All this was for our instruction. The Lord does whatever is necessary for our salvation by both acting and being acted upon. He submitted Himself to being led up there to wrestle against the devil. Now we should not be troubled if, after our baptism, we too have to endure great temptations. We should not treat this as if unexpected but continue to endure all things nobly, as though it were happening in the natural course of things.”

St. Chromatius on the Lord’s preaching about repentance:

“Rightly then does the Lord urge the people to repentance when He says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,’ so that though this confession of sins they may be made worthy to approach the kingdom of heaven. For no one can receive the grace of the heavenly God unless one has been cleansed of every stain of sin by the confession of repentance, through the gift of the saving baptism of our Lord and Savior.”

THE CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES (4:18-22)

An anonymous early Christian on being “fishers of men:”

“And He said to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ That is, I will make you teachers, so that with the net of God’s Word you may catch people in this delusive world, a word fluctuating and frenetic, unstable, treacherous and always dangerous, and never safe for anyone, where people do not walk but are borne along as though against their will.”

JESUS PREACHES AND HEALS (4:23-25)

Blessed Theophylact on the faith of those who were healed:

“Christ did not ask for faith from any of the sick that were brought to Him, for the very fact that they were brought from a distance was a sign of faith.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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