Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – February 9, 2020

Let’s read Matthew!

***God’s Son, God’s Will, God’s Word.***

Matthew 4

**What’s happening in the book?**  Jesus uses His authority righteously.

 Matthew has presented Jesus as the Christ, approved by God the Father, anointed by the Spirit, and identifying (in baptism) with the sinners He came to save. Here, Jesus rejects any prideful short-cuts to glory in order to embrace His mission to make disciples of sinners.

**What would we like to ask Matthew?**

 Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus to a place of temptation?

 What is Satan actually trying to get Jesus to do in these tests?

 Why does Jesus quote from Deuteronomy 6-9 each time?

 Why does Jesus wait for John’s imprisonment to begin His mission?

 Of all Old Testament passages, why does Matthew quote Isaiah 9 here?

 What is Jesus’ message, and what does it imply?

 Why are Jesus’ first disciples fishermen; how will they fish for men?

 Why does Matthew go into detail about where Jesus ministers?

**What do we need to know about this story?**

❑ The Spirit leads Jesus into a place of testing to confirm Him as God’s Son. Cf. Deuteronomy 8:2. At His baptism (3:17), His Sonship was affirmed, and here, Satan is trying to get Jesus to use His divine power for self-centered ends: His hunger, His pride, His reign, all apart from the Father’s will. Satan’s “if” is not a doubt, but a challenge to His ego.

❑ Jesus responds each time with a quotation from Deuteronomy 6-9, where Moses is recounting Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness. Israel rebels repeatedly, but God’s Son, True Israel, obeys perfectly because of His complete trust in God’s promises. He identifies with sinners in their own trials and temptations, showing the way. Gen. 3:6; 1 John 2:15-17

❑ John’s imprisonment signals the Kingdom Baton being passed to Jesus. Their messages are precisely the same. There is only one eternal Gospel, and that is centered around God redeeming sinners and reclaiming His world, all of it, in righteous judgment. Revelation 14:6

❑ Jesus goes everywhere in the land declaring the gospel, including “Galilee of the Gentiles” (v. 15), and later the Decapolis (v. 25), known for its Gentile population. Jesus’ mission will extend far beyond ethnic Israel, to all nations, as God had promised Abraham. Genesis 12:3

❑ It is no accident that the very first disciples are not Pharisees, Sadducees, or Priests, but fishermen called from their nets to “catch men.” God’s Kingdom is very different from what anyone suspects.

**What’s the big idea (main point) of the story?**

**Jesus refuses to misuse His power, and instead advances God’s Kingdom**

**by calling common men as disciples**

**and proclaiming the gospel through preaching and healing.**

***So how do we apply these things practically today?***

 Temptation: We overcome sin through God’s promises. 1 John 5:3-5

 Authority: Jesus alone brings God’s love and light. John 1:1-5

 Discipleship: Jesus calls ordinary people to an extraordinary life. Acts 4:13

 Repentance: It’s not a “work,” but the essential first fruit of faith.