**Monday Evening Bible Study**

**February 20, 2023 – Matthew 4:1-11**

**Immediate Context**

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| Matthew 1:1-17 The Genealogy of Jesus | Matthew 4:12-17 Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee |
| Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah | Matthew 4:18-22 Jesus Calls the First Disciples |
| Matthew 2:1-12 The Visit of the Wise Men | Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People |
| Matthew 2:13-15 The Escape to Egypt | Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes |
| Matthew 2:16-18 The Massacre of the Infants | Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and Light |
| Matthew 2:19-23 The Return from Egypt to Nazareth | Matthew 5:17-20 The Law and the Prophets |
| Matthew 3:1-12 The Proclamation of John the Baptist | Matthew 5:21-42 Anger, Adultery, Divorce, Oaths, Retaliation |
| Matthew 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus | Matthew 5:43-48 Love for Enemies |
| **Matthew 4:1-11 The Temptation of Jesus** | Matthew 6:1-21 Almsgiving, Prayer, Fasting, Treasures |

**Helpful Scriptures**

**Genesis 22:1–19 (NRSV)**

1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, 18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.” 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham lived at Beer-sheba.

**Deuteronomy 8:2–5 (NRSV)**

2 Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. 3 He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4 The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. 5 Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you.

**Exodus 4:22–23 (NRSV)**

22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: Israel is my firstborn son. 23 I said to you, “Let my son go that he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; now I will kill your firstborn son.’ ”

**Hosea 11:1 (NRSV)**

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

**Exodus 34:28 (NRSV) Moses Fasts for Forty Days**

28 He was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

**1 Kings 19:8 (NRSV) Elijah Fasts for Forty Days**

8 He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

**Exodus 16:35 Israelites wandered for forty years**

**Deuteronomy 9:9**

**Numbers 20**

**Psalm 91:11-12 Quoted by the Devil (see Ps. 91:1-2)**

**Deuteronomy 6:16 Quoted by Jesus**

**Deuteronomy 6:13 Quoted by Jesus**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Shema**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

**Daniel 7:14**

**Deuteronomy 8:16-20**

**Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39 Feeding the Hungry**

**Matthew 16:1; 19:3; 22:18; 22:35 Testing/Tempting of Jesus**

**Matthew 28:16-20**

*4 Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5 If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels.*

**Key Words/Phrases**

**Voice from the cloud –** The voice interrupts Peter, repeating what was said at Jesus’ baptism (see Matthew 3:17), but adding “listen to him.” Sometimes God spoke with a voice from heaven (e.g., Gen 22.15– 18). Later Jewish teachers called this means of God speaking *a bat qol*; though they felt that it was an inferior substitute for prophecy, the prophet here also recognizes Jesus’ identity (v. 14). The voice here seems to blend allusions to two Biblical texts; the first is Ps 2.7, a promise to the Davidic line especially applicable to the promised, end-time Davidic ruler. For Mark (1.11), the second might be Gen 22.2, but Matthew probably intends an allusion instead to Isa 42.1, given the way Matthew translates this passage in 12.18.

**“This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” –** Or, as the footnote indicates, “This is my beloved Son; with him I am well pleased; listen to him.” God’s words, “listen to him,” remind us of Moses’ words to the Israelites: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet” (Deuteronomy 18:15).