Matthew Chapters 3 and 4

Chapter 3

* John prepares the way for the Messiah
* Jesus consents to his mission in Baptism
* God empowers Jesus
* God anoints him with the Holy Spirit

3:1-2

* Introduced to John the Baptist
  + He is related to Jesus, but that information is not provided to us in the Gospel of Matthew
* John is a prophetic proclaimer
  + He (John) calls for a changed society

3:7-10

* John denounces the Jewish leaders, Pharisees and Sadducees, for their socio political role as Rome’s allies
* They (Pharisees and Sadducees) depend too much on claims of being descendents from Abraham without living faithfully that extends God’s blessing to all
  + Religious people thought they were good with God because they came from the “right” family
* These religious people are set up as the enemies of Jesus and his new kingdom

3:13-17

* In regards to Jesus’ Baptism
  + Jesus did not need to repent, but Jesus wanted to completely identify with sinful mankind
    - Like a king who took off his crown and robes and experienced life with his subjects
  + Was also a declaration of submission to God the Father
  + Born a King, Baptized an King

Chapter 4

4:1-2

* Jesus Tempted in the desert
* Fasted 40 days and 40 nights
  + Comparison to Israel
    - Israelites wandered the wilderness for 40 years

4:3-10

* Tested by the Devil
  + Test: physically, spiritually, psychologically

4:8-10

* All empires of the world reveals Satan’s reign over the world through empires like Rome

4:11

* On completion of the three tests the devil leaves and angels come to wait on Jesus
* Passing of these tests qualifies Jesus to be King and Savior

4:12-13

* Jesus moves his home base from Nazareth to Capernaum

4:18-22

* Jesus calls his first four disciples
  + The disciples are notoriously prone to failure
* Jesus disrupts the priorities and social obligations of two households
* Fishing quotas were contracted with Rome
  + Fishermen were despised
* Gods empire welcomes everyone without discrimination as to social status

Things to note:

* Following Jesus, based on the message in Matthew, should change how one treats everyone
* People must do things God’s way
* Students/Disciples spend every day with their teacher (Jesus) learning, doing the kinds of things he did
* God looks for the willing

Call of the Disciples in each Gospel

* Matthew and Mark are practically the same
* Luke has a similar version with slight variation
* John tells a completely different story of who was called first and how