

The Kings Inaugural: A Greater Service

Presidential inaugurations are important, but mostly ceremonial. The first 100 days in office are what the nation is really looking for in determining what kind of leader the new president will be once the election and inauguration are finally behind them. Young King David's inauguration/anointing, though secret, was followed in the very next chapter by going forth in his anointing and slaying Goliath, Israel's fiercest enemy. Jesus' anointing and mission was a near repeat performance, with exception of the stakes being infinitely higher. Jesus was "led by the Spirit out into the wilderness" to face our world's greatest enemy and Jesus defeated him by listening to and obeying God's word. This week's study reminds us of Jesus' mission and provides some clues of what discipleship with Jesus is all about.

Journey Together:

- 1). What is one of the greatest responsibilities you have ever been given?
- 2). How did you prepare for it?
- 3). What was most difficult about it and how were you able to accomplish it?

Road Map: Matthew 4:1-11

- 4). Why does Matthew include the account of Jesus' baptism? What is unique about the baptism of Jesus? How is his baptism connected with Jesus being sent out into the wilderness?
- 5). How does Jesus' baptism help prepare him for the Devil's temptations?
- 6). What is the first temptation - turning stones into bread about? What was the Devil tempting Jesus to prove? How has the Devil tempted you like this?

7). What was involved with the second temptation of jumping from the temple? Why didn't Jesus accept Satan's challenge here since he was the Son of God? What was Jesus being tempted with here? Has the Devil ever tempted you in this way and how?

8). The third and last temptation was less subtle, but perhaps the hardest for Jesus since it was a similar struggle to the one at the end of his life in the garden of Gethsemane. It was the struggle of surrendering to God's will by personal suffering instead of the less painful and easier way of bowing to the Devil. In what way have you been tempted with the easy way instead of paying the price of obedience? Why does bowing to the "Prince of This World" always seem easier?

9). What is the first competency in discipleship with Jesus? What is Matthew teaching us about discipleship in the very beginning of Jesus' mission? What spiritual resources does Jesus receive at his baptism that we too must have if we are going to overcome temptation?

Discipleship challenge: God is challenging us to go beyond belief and acceptance to joining his mission. Ask God to clarify his mission in your life and help you clarify what you most need to accomplish it.

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

My Journey:

- 1). How has God been using journey in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). How has God been speaking about his mission for you?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?