

BA Devotional: Matthew 1–4

The Wilderness Makes Warriors

There's a myth in modern Christianity that if you just love Jesus enough, your life will get easier. That if you clean up your act, God will smooth the path, cut your battles in half, and drop blessings like bonuses. But then you read **Matthew 1–4**, and that illusion gets set on fire.

The first four chapters of the New Testament don't open with comfort—they open with **chaos, obedience, and wilderness warfare**.

God Uses Men with Messy Pasts

Let's talk about **Matthew 1**—the genealogy. Most of us skip over it like it's a legal document. But it's one of the most hope-filled passages in all of Scripture.

Why? Because it proves *God uses broken men*.

- Abraham pimped out his wife to save his own skin.
- Judah slept with his daughter-in-law.
- David committed adultery and had a man murdered.

And yet, Jesus—the Savior of the world—comes from *that* line.

If you think your sin disqualifies you from God's plan, you don't understand grace.

The Gospel isn't about being impressive. It's about being *redeemed*.

Obedience Is Loudest When It's Quiet

In **Matthew 2**, Joseph doesn't say a single word. Not one. He doesn't ask for a sign. He doesn't pray for confirmation. He just listens—and *moves*.

- Angel speaks.
- Joseph wakes up.
- He goes.

Every time. Obedience isn't always heroic. Most of the time, it looks like quiet, consistent faithfulness in the dark. Real men move when God speaks.

If God called you to act today—would He have to repeat Himself?

Repentance Is a Man's Responsibility

Matthew 3 hits us with John the Baptist, a wild prophet calling people to repentance in the desert.

He's not whispering. He's not coddling. He's not negotiating.

He's *shouting*—"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Repentance isn't a feeling. It's a *direction*.

It's not just feeling sorry. It's turning around and walking a new way.

Every man has sins he tries to manage instead of kill. But John doesn't leave that door open. He calls us out of hiding and into the open.

You can't be a disciple and a poser at the same time.

The Spirit Leads You into Battle

Then we get to **Matthew 4**, and something happens that most Christians totally miss:

"Then Jesus was *led up by the Spirit into the wilderness* to be tempted by the devil." (Matt. 4:1)

Let that hit: **the Holy Spirit led Jesus into a fight.**

Jesus didn't stumble into the wilderness by accident. He didn't get ambushed. He was *sent*.

The wilderness was *training ground*.

The temptation wasn't punishment—it was *preparation*.

And how did He fight? Not with clever responses. Not with emotion.

He swung the *Word*. Three temptations, three verses. Boom. Boom. Boom.

The Word Is Your Weapon

If you want to walk like Jesus, you have to fight like Jesus.

And Jesus didn't argue with Satan. He didn't explain Himself. He *quoted Scripture*.

You can't fight temptation with willpower—you fight it with **truth**.

You can't resist lies if you don't know what God has said.

This isn't about being a Bible scholar. It's about being a *survivor*.

You're in a war, whether you admit it or not. The question is—are you armed?

Devotional Challenge

- Read Matthew 1–4 slowly. Don't skim. Soak it in.
- Confess one sin you've been trying to manage. Lay it down today.

- Ask God: “What do You want me to obey without hesitation?”
- Memorize Matthew 4:4—and start training your heart for war.

Final Word

Brother, your life will not be defined by the **ease of your path**, but by the **depth of your obedience**.

You were not made for safety.

You were made for the storm.

And the storm obeys the voice of the One who walks with you.

So don't flinch when the wilderness comes.

That's where God forges warriors.

