

## **The First Disciples**

Matthew 4

by Don Falkos

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After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him out into the desert where he fasted for forty days. Then the tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "The scriptures say, 'Life requires more than bread; it requires the Word of God.' "

The devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand at the highest point on top of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "jump! God will protect you. The scriptures say so."

Jesus replied, "The scriptures also say not to put God to the test."

The devil showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world in all their glory and said, "I will give all this to you. Just worship me."

Jesus refused, "The scriptures say, 'Worship only God; serve only God.' "

Then the devil went away, and angels came to take care of Jesus.

After John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod Antipas, Jesus went to Galilee proclaiming, "Turn away from your sins and back to God. The Kingdom of Heaven is near."

One day Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two fishermen throwing a net into the water – Simon, later known as Peter, and his brother Andrew. Jesus called out to them, "Follow me. I will teach you to fish for people." They immediately left their nets and followed him.

A little farther along the beach he saw two more fishermen – James and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father, repairing their nets. Jesus called to them, and they immediately followed him, leaving behind their boat and their father.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee sharing the good news of the Kingdom and healing the sick. People came from far and wide to follow him.