

THE KINGDOM IS NEAR

Matthew 3:16 - 4:11 **How to Pass the Test**
Pastor Justin Carruthers | January 11, 2026

THE PLAIN MAIN THING

- Jesus comes to _____ the test (we failed) _____

THE PLAIN MAIN THING OF MATTHEW 3, REVISITED

- Jesus enters the waters of repentance not because _____ needs cleansing, but because _____ do

Matthew 4:1

THREE TESTS

1. The test of _____ - “Can I trust God with my needs?”
 - Jesus is the _____ who lays down his rights for _____ - for us

Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3

2. The test of _____ - “Can I trust God without testing him?”
 - Jesus is the _____ who lays down his right for _____ - for us

Matthew 26:53-54

3. The test of _____ - “Whom will I worship?”
 - Jesus is the _____ who lays down his right to _____ - for us

Matthew 4:7, Deuteronomy 6:16

(continued...)

Sermon Notes continued...

THE GOSPEL DISTINCTION

- Our salvation is not found in being _____ Jesus. Our salvation is being _____ Jesus!

TAKING IT HOME

1. Live by God’s Word, not by your source idols
(Comfort, Control, Approval, Security)

Which of your source idols do you struggle with? How can you commit this week to handing them over to Jesus?

2. Practice other disciplines
(Solitude, Fasting, Silence, Prayer, Scripture)

Assignment: Make a plan! Consider the below disciplines from our text and when/how you will practice them.

- Reading scripture (make a daily plan)
- Prayer (make a daily plan)
- Fasting (consider weekly for a time, or monthly)
- Solitude and Silence (consider quarterly)

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

From the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, Available for both Android and Apple devices.

In the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, be sure to set your start date for January 1, 2026 in the app settings, and follow along with us!

January 11: Genesis 35-37 | Psalm 11

January 12: Genesis 38 - 40 | Psalm 12

January 13: Genesis 41-42 | Psalm 13

January 14: Genesis 43-45 | Psalm 14

January 15: Genesis 46-47 | Psalm 15

January 16: Genesis 48-50 | Psalm 16

January 17: Exodus 1-3 | Psalm 17



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