

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee

Text: Matthew 4:12- 25

1. **Jesus brings light to Galilee. - Matthew 4:12-16**

It was the imprisonment of **John** that prompted this.

Matthew may have been particularly interested in **Capernaum** because it was where he himself lived (Matthew 9:1-9). Peter also had a house in Capernaum (Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:29 and 2:1).

Yet **leaving Nazareth**, Jesus did not go to live and make His home in Jerusalem or Judea. Going to Jerusalem would seem to be smarter career plan for the Messiah, but Jesus **dwelt in Capernaum**.

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet: As is his custom, Matthew sees Jesus' ministry in Galilee as a fulfillment of prophecy. **Light** has come to this

region, largely populated by Gentiles, and Isaiah 9:1-2 predicted this of the ministry of the Messiah.

See ***Isaiah 9:1-2***

In despised Galilee, the place where people live in darkness without the religious and cultural advantages of Jerusalem and Judea... here the light has dawned.

2. The message of Jesus. - Matthew 4:17

Jesus did heal and minister to many miraculously; but on the whole, it seems fair to say that Jesus was a preacher and teacher who healed, more than He was a healer who also preached and taught.

This is the priority of Jesus' ministry as stated in Matthew 4:23.

Preach: "The word in Greek is the word for a herald's proclamation from a king. The herald was the man who brought a message direct from the king."

Repent: The gospel Jesus preached began the same place that the gospel John preached began – with a call to *repentance* (Matthew 3:2).

3. Four disciples are called. - Matthew 4:18-22

This was not the first time Jesus met these men, and other gospels describe previous encounters (John 1:35-42 and Luke 5:3), but this is when Jesus called them to leave their professions and follow Him with a full-time commitment.

God usually calls people as they are busy doing something. Jesus called the apostles as they were **casting a net into the sea** or **mending their nets**. “They were busy doing work when he called them to be ministers: our Lord does not call the idle but *fishers*.”

Follow Me “would immediately suggest the disciples of a Rabbi...who literally followed him around to absorb his teaching, though this was by their own choice, not by his summons.”

They immediately left their nets... And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him: The *immediate* response of these disciples is a great example to us. Then the first disciples did what all disciples of Jesus should do: they **followed Him**

Following Jesus means leaving some things behind. The Samaritan woman left her pitcher, Matthew left his tax table, and blind Bartimaeus left his cloak to follow Jesus.

4. A description of Jesus’ ministry. - Matthew 4:23-25

The customs of the synagogue in that day gave Jesus many opportunities to teach, because they would often give a visitor – especially a distinguished one – a chance to speak.

Teaching... preaching the gospel of the kingdom: The difference between **teaching** and **preaching** is one of emphasis and manner, not of content.

All kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease: Jesus' ability to heal those with all different kinds of diseases demonstrates that He has authentic power over the damage done by the fall of man. His authority over demons (**and those who were demon-possessed**) shows He has authentic power over all creation.

Great multitudes followed Him: Jesus had a purpose for allowing such dramatic miracles to attract **great multitudes**. He wanted to teach the multitudes, not simply to impress them with miracles.

Conclusion: How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? In the Gospels, Jesus never seemed to be interested in people who were just there as casual bystanders.

Are you close enough to Jesus to get the benefits but not so close to require sacrifice?

Jesus is looking for followers. Not just any follower though, but a completely, committed, follower, of Jesus.

How would things change if you lived as Jesus lived, and loved the way He loved? If you truly learned to do what He did as His disciple? In the same way that Peter, Andrew, James, and John did!

As we close, I also want to enjoy this inaugural start to the ministry on Jesus in the book of Matthew. As I mentioned before there were other events that happened before this one but this is the start in the book of Matthew!

This is the start to the rescue mission of all ages! Yes, it was initially to the Jews, but ultimately this is the story of your rescue!

Jesus is coming for you! Jesus has come to seek and save that which was lost! Jesus has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never sound retreat!

And even today as He is in Heaven and we are left to fulfill this mission as His ambassadors!

For me this is very exciting! Again, initially it is to the Jews or His own, but ultimately it will come to include you and me.

The mission has begun!



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think Jesus started his ministry in Galilee and not a more popular or prestigious area?
2. How is Jesus the light?
3. What is the difference between teaching and preaching?
4. Why was it necessary for the disciples to leave all to follow Jesus?
5. Do you find it interesting that Jesus calls the busy not the idle? Why do you think He does this?

6. Is there any significance to the fact that Jesus healed all kinds of sickness and disease?
7. Why do you think there was a lot of demon possession in Jesus' day compared to the Old Testament?
8. Are you a follower of Jesus? explain your commitment to Him?
9. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?
10. Does it excite you to study the ministry of Jesus that ultimately leads Him to rescue you?