

Jesus Begins His Ministry

Matthew 4:12-25

Intro:

- A. **Jesus has completed the temptation.**
 - 1. He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness.
 - 2. He refused every offer of Satan. He would not turn stones to bread, He would not tempt the Lord by jumping from the pinnacle of the temple, He would not worship Satan in order to get the world's kingdoms
 - 3. After this, the devil leaveth him.
- B. **Jesus is now about thirty, He must begin His ministry.**
 - 1. He has been identified by baptism.
 - 2. He has been tested and passed the test.

I. Two Scriptures Must Be Fulfilled. V.14

- A. **John must decrease. V.12**
 - 1. John had been placed in prison.
 - 2. This had been stated. John 3:28-31
 - 3. God knew the loyalty of men to their religious teachers. John would have to be taken from the scene.
- B. **A land and a people must see Him. Vs.13-15**
 - 1. Every scripture must be fulfilled concerning Him.
 - 2. The land, Zab-u-lon and Neph-tha-lim.
 - 3. The "two" Galilees, one Jewish, one Gentile.
- C. **The presence of the Lord. V.16**
 - 1. The people saw "great light".
 - 2. To them which sat in the shadow of death a light is, sprung up.

II. The Message Of Jesus.

- A. **"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say..." v.17**
 - 1. preach = κηρυσσω = "to proclaim as a herald, the proclamation of another."

2. say = λεγω = "to say."

B. **"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

1. repent = μετανοεω = "to change one's mind."
2. It is the same message as John.

III. The Beginning Of His Called Out Ones.

A. **Jesus called Andrew and Peter. V.18**

1. They knew who He was.
2. They were born again.
3. They were immersed.

B. **The call of Andrew and Simon. V.19**

1. follow me = δευτε = "come here" a command, + οπισω = behind, after, = "come hither, after me".
2. make = ποιεω = "to produce", "to form"
3. Jesus commanded them to take their place, subservient to Him, to become His learners.
4. The object of their attention has been changed from fish to men. To make this the same as "fishing", they were using nets, not bait. They would not "draw" these nets. God do this. They were to follow the directions of the Lord.
5. straightway = ευθους = "forthwith" v.20
6. followed = ακολουθεω = "to follow behind someone", of a disciple, one who willingly follows another."

C. **The call of James and John. Vs.21,22**

1. They were in a ship, mending their nets.
2. called = καλεω = "to summon", "to invite".
3. Remember that Peter and Andrew were not invited, they were commanded!
4. immediately = ευθεω = directly, at once v.22
5. followed = ακολουθεω = (see 6 above)

IV. The Ministry Of Jesus. Vs. 23-25

A. **He went about all Galilee. V.23**

1. teaching = διδασκω = to teach.

2. preaching = κηρυσσων = (see vs. 17)
3. gospel = ευαγγελιον = the good news was good only to those who repented. It was about the kingdom.
4. healing = θεραπευω = to dress, wash, to be an attendant, to take care of the sick, to tend them and treat them medically.
5. sickness = νοσος = "a chronic disease"
6. disease = μαλακια = "incipient complaint," "the occasional illness".

B. The response of the people. V.24

1. fame = ακοη = hearing, report
2. sick = οι εχων κακος = "people having ill or evil."
3. divers = ποικιλος = various
4. disease = νοσος = "confirmed disease"
5. torments = βασανος = torture, pain
6. possessed = δαιμονιζομαι = "to be under the power of a demon"
7. lunatic = σεληνιαζομαι = "to be moon struck"
8. palsy = παραλυτικος = paralytic, palsied
9. healed = θεραπευω = "to take care of the sick."

C. The people followed Jesus. V.25

1. followed = ακολουθεω = "to go with or after."
2. They came from many places and in great multitudes.
3. Not all were saved. Not all continued. Some were curious. Some were interested. Some were excited. Very few understood and set their faces to be His disciple.