

God With Us

A Study of Matthew: "Jesus, The Peoples' Minister"

Matthew 4:1-25

So His fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and He healed them. (Matthew 4:24)

I. Light in the Midst of Darkness

- a. Matthew wrote his book topically, not chronologically. We must not think that John the Baptist was thrown into prison immediately after the Lord's temptation.
- b. Have you ever been so sick and so desperate that you could not see hope? This was the situation described in in verse 16, *the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light*.
- c. Jesus established His ministry among the least of these at Capernaum which was in Galilee of the Gentiles. Capernaum was a busy lake-side town surrounded by smaller villages.
 1. This location speaks to the universal message of the Gospel.
 2. In Galilee there was a mixed population that was despised by the "pure" citizens of Judea.
- d. Zebulun and Naphtali shared the area between the Lake of Galilee and the territory of Asher.
- e. Jesus' movements and ministry were designed to fulfill prophecy. (v.14) (read Isaiah 61:1-2)
- f. He brought *light* to Galilee through His teaching, preaching and healing. Jesus healed all manner of sickness and disease. There was no case too difficult for Him.
- g. "Kingdom of heaven/God" means rule, reign or authority rather than a place or specific realm.
 1. Jesus reigns. Which means He had authority over every sickness and the demonic.
 2. The kingdom of heaven exists in our churches when we allow Christ to reign and have authority.
- h. Jewish leaders wanted a political leader, but Jesus came to bring spiritual rule.

II. A World-Changing Task Force

- a. Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John, men who previously met Jesus. (John 1:29-42)
- b. *Fishers of men* image of evangelism presented in the Bible. Jesus also talked about the shepherd seeing the lost sheep and the workers in the harvest field.
- c. Why would Jesus call fisherman?
 1. Fisherman were known to be hard-working people. They were courageous and patient people.
 2. Fishing requires faith. Each time they casted their nets they believed fish would be caught.
- d. Brothers, Simon and Andrew. Their names reflect the mixed culture in which they lived. Shore fisherman.
 1. *Simon (Semitic)* was a very common name in Palestine, Jesus called him Peter
 2. *Andrew* is Greek, the family settled in Capernaum but ordained from Bethsaida.
- e. Brothers, John and James, the sons of Zebedee. Fished from boats using large nets.
 1. The Zebedee family were more affluent.
- f. The calling of these men to discipleship involved "leaving behind" vocation and family.
- g. Jesus did not give them an invitation, but a demand comparable to Elijah's call of Elisha. (1 Kings 19:19-21)

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Jesus based His ministry camp in Capernaum, but the city as a whole did not receive Him. (Matt. 11:23-24) People will deny the existence of God even if they see the evidence with their own eyes.
- b. Jesus came to do what He said He would do about Himself! (read Luke 4:18-19)
- c. Kingdom ministry embraces preaching, teaching and healing.
- d. The Lord needs people who are not afraid to work.
- e. When the Church is doing the work of the kingdom (challenging preaching, clear teaching) healing will follow, inner hurts will be comforted, and the demonic will be defeated.