

## Matthew 4 The King Sets up His Kingdom

3/1/2020

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|--------------------|-------------|
| I. His Home Base   | v 13 - 16   |
| II. His Gospel     | v 17, 23-24 |
| III. His Disciples | v 18 - 22   |

### His Home Base

Luke gives the chronology of the King's movements after his victory over the devil (Lk 4:16-31). Jesus desired to set-up his home base in Nazareth, where he was raised. But his home town rejected him; revealing two spiritual truths:

(1) historical - John 1:11

(2) spiritual - John 4:44

So Jesus moved to Capernaum (*village of Nahum*) on the NW coast of Sea of Galilee.

[ It's 18 miles from Nazareth to Capernaum : it's 18 inches from the head to the heart. In Nazareth he was the carpenter, in Capernaum he's the King. Nahum means 'rest'. A soul comes to the place of rest when it realizes that Jesus is more than a carpenter. He's the King ! ]

He did this for two reasons : (1) they gladly received his word, Luke 4:31-37  
(2) it fulfilled written scripture, v 14-16 = Isa 9:1-2

"The movements of Jesus were ordered by his Father according to divine prophecy and the leading of His Father's Spirit. When John was cast into prison, Jesus began his public ministry. When the morning star fades, it's time for the Sun (*great light*, v16) to shine, John 3:30. Jesus brings heavenly light to those who *sit in darkness...under the shadow of death.*"

### His Gospel

v 23 *Jesus went ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom ... of heaven* (v 17)

Mt 9:35 & 24:14

Bible doctrine : there are three gospels, one for each group in 1 Cor 10:32

1. The everlasting gospel, Rev 14:6-7 - for the Gentiles from Adam to Abraham.
2. The gospel of the kingdom, see above - for the Jews from Abraham to Christ's death.
3. The gospel of Christ, Romans 1:16 - for the Church from Christ's resurrection to rapture.

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ preached the gospel of the kingdom to Israel. The blessings of the kingdom of heaven are listed in the promises given by God to Moses as the Jews entered the promised land, Deuteronomy 7 & 28.

The promises included provision, prosperity, health, and divine protection through miracles for God's people (the Jews) in God's land (Israel) as long as they were obedient to God's word. Obedience required accepting God's leaders : prophets, priests, kings, and ultimately, the Messiah. The gospel of the kingdom is a for a physical people who are physically circumcised living in a physical land who receive physical promises.

The gospel of Christ is a spiritual gospel for a spiritual people (i.e. *born again*) who receive spiritual blessings (**Eph 1:3**, Gal 5:18, 22-25) who are not required to live in Israel. The gospel of Christ is for the whole world (Mark 16:15).

v 17 *Jesus began to preach, Repent*

The Law demands repentance. The kingdom of heaven is a theocracy and it's throne demands turning from sin, Pr 16:12 & 25:5.

### His Disciples

Our Lord both preached the kingdom and called men into it's service.

v 18 *Jesus, walking by ...* when Jesus passes nearby He converts, calls and ordains.  
spir: Our sphere of influence is where God has us to walk.

hist: Jesus had an eye for fishers; he didn't call 'idlers'. He had met Peter and Andrew with grace before (John 1:35-42); now he calls them into discipleship.

doct: *Believers* have met the Lord, the day they were saved.  
*Disciples...follow* the Lord; and He makes them *fishers of men*.  
Those whom he calls can only be successful as they *follow him*.

references :

*The Gospel of Matthew*, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, 1987, Revell Books