



DAILY STUDY

Lesson 22: Jesus Begins His Ministry

Passage: Read Matt. 4:12 -25 (Jn. 1:35 - 4:42)

Verse: Matthew 4:19

DAY 1 LET'S BEGIN:

1. John 1:19-4:42 gives an account of several events during Jesus' first year of ministry which Matthew omits. To what events do the following references in John relate?
1:35-51
2:1-11
2:12-25
3:1-21
3:22-36
4:1-42
2. What event marked the beginning of the official ministry of Jesus? (Mt. 4:12)
3. From what place did Jesus leave, and to what place did He go? (Mt. 4:12-13; Jn. 4:43)
4. Who were Zebulun and Naphtalim (Naphtali)? (Mt. 4:15; Gn. 49:13, 21; Jos. 19:10-16, 32-39)
5. How was Galilee described in Matthew 4:15?
6. How were the people of Galilee described in Matthew 4:16, and why do you think they were described that way?

DAY 2 FIND the FACTS:

1. What do you think the darkness was? (Jn. 3:19)
2. What sprung up on the people (Mt. 4:16), and what do you think it was?
3. What other references and descriptions can you give for the light the people saw?
4. What word in Matthew 4:17 describes what Jesus began to do from that time?
5. How would you define that word describing what Jesus was doing?
6. What was His message? (Mt. 4:17)
7. What does the word "repent" mean?
8. How is Jesus' preaching described in Matthew 7:29?
9. Who else had preached the same message? (Mt. 3:1-2)
10. What do you think Jesus was referring to by the kingdom of heaven? (Mt. 4:17)
11. How do you think it was at hand?
12. What do you think could have happened if the people had willingly received Jesus at that time?
13. However, what event still had to happen in God's time and plan? (Heb. 10:10)

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Lesson 22

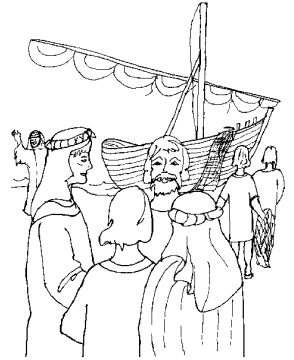
Jesus Begins His Ministry

During the year after Jesus was tempted by the devil a number of events took place which are not recorded in the book of Matthew. Those events included Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, His cleansing of the Temple, His witness to Nicodemus at night, the final public witness of John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry in Samaria at Sychar. Early that year John had directed two of his disciples toward following Jesus. One of them was Andrew (Jn. 1:35-40).

Then Jesus heard that **John** had been arrested. That's when Jesus left Nazareth and went to **Capernaum** by the sea in Galilee. There Jesus began to preach, calling for repentance because the kingdom of heaven was at hand. He fulfilled the Scripture which said that those sitting in darkness by the Sea of Galilee, beyond the Jordan, would see a great light (Mt. 4:15-16).

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee He saw two brothers, **Simon** and **Andrew**. They were **fisherman**, casting a net into the sea. Jesus called to them, telling them that He would make them fishers of men if they followed Him. They quickly abandoned

their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus came to the brothers, **James** and **John**, who were mending nets with their father. Jesus **called** them, also, and they immediately followed.



Jesus traveled all through Galilee teaching in synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** all sorts of diseases, sicknesses and demon-possessed people. The four fishermen went with Him. News of His healing spread quickly in Syria, and He healed many. Great multitudes followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond Jordan. The people liked the **miracles** and followed Him because of the good things He did for them. But not many would continue to follow as persecution began and grew. Who are you following today and why?

QUESTIONS: Where did Jesus go?
 Who did He call, and what did they do?
 What did Jesus begin doing?
 How did the people respond?

PASSAGE THOUGHTS

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John 1:19 - 4:42 gives an account of the year of events which took place between the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 and the events of Matthew 4:12-17. Shortly after the temptation John the Baptist directed his own disciples toward Jesus with a series of statements on three consecutive days. John pointed them to (1) the far greater worthiness of Jesus, (2) to the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" and (3) to the "Son of God." At that two of his disciples began to follow Jesus. John was fully aware that he must decrease as Christ increased (Jn. 1:26-51).

Other events during that year included Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, His cleansing of the Temple, His witness to Nicodemus at night, the final public witness of John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry in Samaria at Sychar. But then came the time for Jesus to begin His official ministry. Until then Jesus was increasing while John was decreasing.

In Matthew 4:12-17 we learn that the time was just after Jesus heard that Herod had put John the Baptist in prison. The place was Capernaum, which means village of Nahum. Nahum means compassion, so it was named the village of compassion. Jesus' message was the same as John's when He said they must repent for the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Later Jesus would describe Capernaum as being under judgment for its unbelief in the face of all the miracles it had seen (Mt. 11:23-24).

Jesus chose four fishermen to join Him fishers of men and to do more than just believe on Him. What did Jesus know about them that would cause him to choose them? What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John know about Jesus which caused them to leave their families, ask no questions and follow Jesus? The fishermen were workers,

and they knew about the preaching, teaching, and healing that Jesus had been doing. The fishermen were certainly not the religious leaders of the day. They had been observing Jesus for as long as a year by that time. They were not following impetuously.

What are our lives portraying to those around us? Are we like the religious leaders and those who attended the synagogues of Peter's and Andrew's day? Are we looking for ways to pick apart what God is doing and wants to do, or do our lives show that we are ready and willing to do what God says when He speaks to us? Is He doing miracles and is His providence apparent to us on a daily basis, or do we take for granted His power in our lives?

God can use any heart which is willing to be used. He made each of us uniquely and desires that we follow him. He is not willing that any should perish. God loves each of us even though He is not happy with everything we do.

We have the privilege of getting to know various people around us. How can we be a vessel to communicate God's truth to them in such a way that they will understand and respond? Jesus talked to the fishermen about fishing, and put His message in a language they understood. What language are those around us speaking? How can you effectively point others to Christ by what you say?

PRAYER: *Help us follow Jesus faithfully because He has chosen each of us, and does not make a mistake. Help us reach out to others with the message that will draw them to yourself.*
