

Matthew 4b

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matthew 4:12

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, **He departed to Galilee.** ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, **He came and dwelt in Capernaum**, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ *"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,*

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

¹⁶ *The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,*

And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death

Light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

He came and dwelt (v 13)

- Up to this point, Jesus had been living in Nazareth, but ministering in Galilee.
- At this point, Jesus moves into his place of ministry.



Jesus focuses on this place because of the intense demonic influence!

Notice the Quote from Isaiah (v 15)

Isaiah 9:1

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed,

As when at first He lightly esteemed

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

And afterward more heavily oppressed her,

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

In Galilee of the Gentiles.

² The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined.

First...

Did you notice the **darkness to light** theme?

Second:

- At first He *lightly esteemed...*
- And afterward more **heavily oppressed her**

Israel experienced two waves of attack

- In **2 Kings 15** (under Tiglath-Pileser **king of Assyria**) and
- In **2 Chronicles 16** under **Ben-Hadad**) both entered through the north by way of Zebulun and Naphtali.

But Why does God allow the captivity of His people?

Idolatry!

THINK! This place was judged

- **NOT because** of the **Angels** who fell at Mount Hermon,
- **but because** of the **Humans** who worshiped them

Matthew 4:18

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Doesn't it seem odd that the disciples simply follow as soon as Jesus asks?

ACTUALLY: Matthew skips a lot here

- The wedding at Cana
- Passover and the cleansing of the Temple
- Meeting with Nicodemus
- The Samaritan Woman

They were well aware of Jesus and were following him

In Matthew, this call and response seems completely out of the blue

In Luke, this moment **feels more sensible...**

Luke 5:1

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, ² and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. ³ Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." ¹¹ So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

So... Why do they follow him?

Because he was the Messiah!

By this point,

- **Several Disciples** were following him on a **casual** basis.
- **Crowds of people** are listening to his teachings, and seeing his miracles.

**But on this day, out of all the droves of people,
the Messiah reached out to THEM!**

They follow because!

They KNEW he was the King!

And Jesus pointed this out!

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and **healing** all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.
24 Then His fame went **throughout all Syria**; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵ **Great multitudes followed Him**—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

These are **PROOFS** that Jesus was who he said he was

Look back at Isaiah 9

Isaiah 9:2

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation
And increased its joy...

Why are they so joyful?

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ **For unto us a Child is born,**
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,

Recognise that?

Matthew has directed us to this passage for a reason!

It all centers on Jesus' KINGSHIP

Look at verse 17 ...

Matthew 4:17

From that time **Jesus began to preach** and to say,
“Repent, for the **kingdom** of heaven is at hand.”

Look at verse 23 ...

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**

Jesus is announcing His kingdom!

But this kingdom fits into a **bigger story**
than just the Human kingdom

The world lies under the control and influence of
Satan and His forces as well.

Psalm 82:1

God stands in the congregation of the mighty;

He judges among the gods.

² How long will you **judge unjustly**,
And show **partiality** to the wicked?

These are what the scriptures call Principalities and Powers

Psalm 82:6

I said, “You are gods,
And all of you are children of the Most High.

⁷ But you shall die like men,
And fall like one of the princes.”

⁸ **Arise, O God, judge the earth;**
For You shall inherit all nations.

When **Jesus receives His authority**,
He takes it out of the hands of **Principalities and Powers!**

THINK!

This is why Jesus went directly to where it all began!

If this sounds crazy, consider...

Colossians 1:13

[God} has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

ULTIMATELY: There are only two choices!

**You either serve in the Kingdom of Jesus
Or you serve the Kingdom of Satan**

THIS is the choice that Peter and the other disciples faced!

We like to think of them as **humble losers**

But Peter had a successful business!

**When he was called from that position,
He was making a value assessment.**

- Do I stay here and become a successful businessman
- Or do I sit at the right hand of the King?

Moses had a similar value assessment...

Hebrews 11:26

(Moses Esteemed) the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt

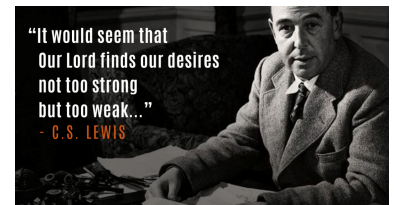
CONSIDER YOUR CHOICE:

C.S. Lewis:

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires **not too strong, but too weak**. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition **when infinite joy is offered us**, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making **mud pies in a slum** because he **cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea**.

We are far too easily pleased.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*



Every Martyr has made this same choice