

## A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 4 v. 12-25

- **Following His temptation, Jesus starts the journey to being His ministry. (v. 12-17)**
  - This starts after Jesus finds out that John the Baptist has been imprisoned. What is interesting about Jesus's actions in response to his imprisonment? (v. 12)
    - Jesus and John the Baptist had a close relationship, but in spite of His cousin being imprisoned potentially causing fear or distraction, Jesus moves forward with the plan God has for Him. How does this apply to us?
  - Jesus's journey takes Him through a couple of different regions/areas (Capernaum, Zebulun, and Naphtali), does this happen by chance? (v. 13-14)
    - Jesus journey through these area fulfills one of the prophecies given by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 9:1-2. This is the SIXTH time that Jesus has brought to fruition a prophecy given in the Old Testament.
    - The prophet Isaiah is believed to have done most of his work as a prophet from 740-700 B.C., and Christ does not start His ministry until approximately 27 A.D. So there are 700 years between Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus' action.
  - As Jesus comes into the area, what are we able to see about the hearts of the people He is about to minister to? (v. 15-16)
    - Verse 16 says that the people "sat in darkness" and "sat in the region of the shadow of death". What does this mean?
    - Jesus is referred to as a Great Light in the prophecy of Isaiah. How does a light effect darkness?
    - By Jesus coming and ministering to the people, He is able to bring God's love and mercy to them, and save them from the eternal death they are on the brink of.
  - As Jesus starts His ministry, He continues the teaching that John the Baptist began in Chapter 3 verse 2.
    - What is different about the message this time?
- **Jesus does not intend on starting His journey alone, but instead recruits the first of his disciples to follow Him. (v. 18-22).**
  - Jesus gives a very simple command when calling these men. He tells them to "Follow Me." How do the disciples following Christ differentiate from our current times?
    - During this period, it was common practice for men to leave their occupation to follow teachers that they found interesting.
    - The book of Matthew doesn't give a lot of detail leading into Jesus choosing His disciples, but in John 1:40-43 we can see that one of the chosen disciples (Andrew) has heard of Jesus before.
    - The first two disciples to follow Jesus are Simon (Peter) and Andrew, and they are followed next by the brothers James and John.
  - What is interesting to note about the people that Jesus chooses as his disciples?

- Jesus does not choose to take scribes or Pharisees as His followers, but instead chooses fishermen. He does not take the “easy” way and choose people educated in the word as His followers, but instead takes men that were uneducated and untrained to spread His word.
  
- **As Jesus begins His ministry, He goes throughout Galilee teaching and healing people (v. 23-25).**
  - Jesus begins His teaching in synagogues. Why would he begin his ministry there?
    - Jesus coming to the synagogues is an opportunity for believers and religious elite to see the physical fruition of their beliefs and hope. Do these people accept it?
  - Not only does Jesus teach, but He heals every kind of sickness and disease amongst the people.
    - It is important to note that the healing goes beyond only physical ailments, but Jesus has the power to also free people who are demon-possessed (v. 24).
    - Where does Jesus’ power of healing come from?  
Do you think the people that came to Him knew this?
  - Jesus’ followers don’t just stay in the area, but travel beyond the Jordan.  
What is Matthew showing us by saying this?
  
- **What can we learn from this?**
  - Just as Jesus fulfilled promises that Isaiah prophesied about hundreds of years before, we can have assurance that God will fulfill the promises that He has made to us.
  - Jesus was not sent into the world to put down or condemn us, but instead to offer us a light and a way out of the sin that we are in without God.
  - Jesus does not call the qualified, but qualifies the people who are called.
  - We worship a Savior that can heal every ailment of every kind.  
There is NOTHING that can beat our God.