

Matt. 4:12-25

“The King’s Ministry Begins”

Imagine Jesus approaching you and calling you to follow Him, and be His disciple. Would you follow Him and why? Imagine the adventure, the presence of God, the significant purpose for your life, and the restoration available for you and others...

Discussion Qs

1. Why does repentance precede following Jesus?
2. When you think of following Jesus what comes to mind?
3. What are some obstacles to following Jesus?
4. What are some ways that people need to be restored?

Jesus is our King

A. Making Jesus king in the personal realm: [summary]

1. Bible learning, prayer, repentance, overcoming temptation

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Intro. Imagine Jesus approaching you and calling you to follow Him, be His disciple ... Why follow? Cf. Adventure, presence of God, purpose, restoration (self, others)

Subject: Jesus Begins His Ministry

Object: Follow Jesus & be restored

Context: Baptism, wilderness temptation, then 1 year of ministry near Jerusalem [Jn.2-4] now Jesus begins His public ministry @ Galilee

A. Repentance [12-17] 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.”

1. Jesus brings the gospel to the Galilee [12-16]

a. Jesus came to the region of the Sea of Galilee Northern Israel, about 200 villages

i. After hearing that John was imprisoned [12] (by Herod Antipas).

Note: John was imprisoned but the gospel was not silenced.

ii. Jesus made Capernaum His headquarters [13], at Peter’s home.

b. **Fulfill the prophecy [Is.9:1-2] [14-16].** We might think that Jerusalem the social, political, & religious center would be epicenter for Jesus, but he came to the Galilee.

2. **Jesus brings light [16]** to an area that had a large Gentile population without the light of the word of God the Light had come.

a. The light exposes sin and reveals the Savior

3. Jesus calls us to repent [17]

a. **We are called to turn from our sin and turn to God [make Jesus King]**

i. **From that time:** the message of repentance continued to be proclaimed

ii. **kingdom of heaven is at hand:** because Christ the king has come the kingdom is available.

iii. First message of John the Baptist [3:2], Peter [Ac.2:38]

B. Relationship [18-22] The call of the first disciples

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.

1. Jesus calls people to follow Him & be His disciples

Sea of Galilee is 12 miles long & 8 miles wide. Circular draw nets catch fish as it sinks [18].

Fishermen tend to be patient, persistent, and passionate. Jesus already knew Peter and Andrew [Jn. 1:29-42], but now calls them to follow Him [19]. Similarly He called James & John [21-22]. Normally disciples would approach a rabbi and seek to follow. Here Jesus initiates relationship [Lu.15, 19:10].

a. **The key to following is relationship (practical proximity):** they would spend three years learning from him & observing Him. Lessons would be taught and caught.

i. The closer you are to Jesus the easier it is to follow (avoid dangers & getting lost)

ii. **Jn.15:1-10** Abide and bear fruit

b. Following Jesus requires us to prioritize our relationship with Him:

i. They immediately left their nets & followed Him [20] urgency of Peter & Andrew

ii. immediately they left the boat & their father, & followed Him [22] James, John

iii. 1 Ki. 19 Elisha – forsakes a comfortable life to follow Elijah and discover God’s call

2. Jesus promise to make us something better:

a. **I will make you fishers of men [19]:** Jesus calls them to become something & offers to make them. Jesus uses their life experience to shape the calling.

3. Jesus calls us to be ambassadors of restoration

a. Fishers of men [19] help the lost to be saved in Christ, mending nets [21] help restore people ...

2Cor. 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

C. Restoration [23-25] Jesus brings healing

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.

1. Jesus' healing is connected to His teaching [23]

a. Jesus proclaimed the gospel (good news) of the kingdom of God

b. Synagogue was the center of Jewish life after return from Babylon [480 BC], prayer, worship, scripture teaching.

c. Jesus' healing validates His teaching [Matt.11:4-5]

2. Jesus' healing brings restoration from the result of the fall [Gen. 3]

a. Multitudes coming from a 100 mile radius, seeking restoration by Jesus

3. Jesus' brings healing in the physical, spiritual, and emotional realms

a. Jesus may not heal every need in this life so that learn to depend upon Him and discover His power in our weakness [2Cor. 12:7-10]. Cf. eternal

Jn. 5 man at the pool of Bethesda, do you want to be made well?

Conc. What do you need to be restored of? Will you follow Jesus and be restored?

Lu. 4:18-19 The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

¹⁹To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.