**Matthew 4:12-22**

**Matthew 4:12-17**

**12***When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee.*

**13***He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.*

**14***This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:*

**15***“In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,  
    beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River,  
    in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,***16***the people who sat in darkness  
    have seen a great light.  
And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,  
    a light has shined.”*

**17***From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”*

* + At the end of the temptations, Matthew says Jesus hears that John the Baptist has been imprisoned by Herod Antipas
    - Herod Antipas inherited rule over Galilee after his father, Herod the Great, died in 4 BC
    - Herod Antipas married the wife of his brother, Philip, committing adultery in the process
    - John the Baptist spoke out against Herod Antipas’ adultery and as a result, John was arrested and later beheaded
  + Upon learning John was arrested, Jesus withdrew to
    - Galilee is the name for the region in Israel immediately surrounding the Sea of Galilee in the north
    - The Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake, not a salt sea, and it’s the main source of fresh water for all Israel
    - It’s shaped like a harp, so it’s also called Lake Gennesaret, from the Hebrew word for “harp”
* Jesus chose to retreat into Galilee to put some distance between Himself and those who might oppose Him
  + John’s arrest was an indication to Jesus that Satan was turning up the heat on His ministry
  + For the next three years, Jesus will spend most of His time ministering in the region of Galilee, out of the way of those who oppose Him
    - Eventually, Jesus must die
    - When the time is right, the Lord will harness Satan’s opposition to deliver His Son to the cross
    - As we learned last week, from Psalm 91, nothing bad could happen to the Messiah until that appointed time
    - For now, Jesus will stay out of harm’s way in Galilee
* In v.12, Matthew briefly mentions Jesus’ departure for Galilee, but as he does, he skips a significant interval of time and a series of important events
  + Based on the other Gospels, we know that after the temptations ended, Jesus went back to Nazareth
    - Immediately, Jesus began to meet His first disciples, including Peter, Andrew and Nathaniel, all from that area of Galilee
    - Soon after that Jesus, his mother and these first disciples attended a wedding together in the nearby town of Cana
    - At this wedding, Jesus performed His first —turning water into wine
  + After the wedding, Jesus traveled to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and disciples
    - A few days later, Jesus departed for Jerusalem to attend the first of four Passovers during His three year ministry (after Jesus’ final Passover, Jesus went to the cross)
    - During this visit to the temple, Jesus chases money changers out of the

for the first time (He does it on His fourth visit also)

* + - He also begins to perform public miracles and teach
    - As a result of Jesus’ appearances in Jerusalem, Nicodemus came to ask his questions of Jesus, recorded in John 3
  + Around that time, John the Baptist is arrested, so following the Passover, Jesus returns to Galilee to escape His enemies
    - On the way to Galilee, Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well, in John 4
    - Jesus eventually returns to His home in Nazareth, where He began to preach and travel around Galilee
* That’s where we pick up in Matthew 4:13, with Jesus leaving Nazareth for Capernaum once again
  + This time, Jesus is moving permanently to settle in Capernaum
    - Capernaum is to become Jesus’ headquarters for ministry in Galilee
    - So why did Jesus make this move?
  + We learn from Luke and John that after He returned to Nazareth, following the Passover, Jesus’ fame quickly spread
    - He was performing miracles and declaring the Kingdom was at hand
    - On one occasion, Jesus preached at a synagogue in Nazareth, declaring that He was the promised Messiah
    - According to Luke, the town of Nazareth rejected Jesus’ claims, largely because they thought of Him as just a local boy
  + They were so angered by Jesus’ claims, they tried to throw Him off a nearby cliff
    - Ironically, Satan had just tried to get Jesus to throw Himself off a high point to prove He was the Son of God
    - And now in Nazareth, people were trying to throw Jesus off a cliff because He was the Son of God
* As Nazareth was rejecting the Messiah, Capernaum was embracing Jesus
  + Capernaum is a small fishing village located on the northern point of the Sea of Galilee
    - The Gospels tells us that in contrast to Nazareth, Capernaum readily embraced Jesus’ and
    - Jesus moves with His family from Nazareth to Capernaum
    - Jesus didn’t make the move because Capernaum was more receptive
  + Matthew says Jesus’ decision to settle in Capernaum was intended to fulfill Isaiah 9:1-2
    - Capernaum lies on the road, “*Via Maris*”, which means, “The Way of the Sea”
    - The “V*ia Maris*” was an important Roman trading route running from Egypt to Babylon
  + Thousands of traders passed through Capernaum on this route
    - Which made Capernaum a strategic location from which to share the message of the Gospel
    - From that one place, news of what Jesus was saying and doing could easily spread to many places in the world
* Isaiah prophesied that would be God’s plan

**Isaiah 9:1-2**

**1***Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.*

**2***The people who walk in darkness  
    will see a great light.  
For those who live in a land of deep darkness,   
    a light will shine.*

* Isaiah explicitly named the location that the Messiah would perform miracles and bring light to darkness
  + More than Israel, Isaiah says the Messiah will also be sent to Galilee of the Gentiles
  + As Gentile traders passed through Galilee on the *Via Maris*, some encountered Jesus and His teachings, leading to early converts among the nations
  + Clearly, the Messiah isn’t trying to hide in this place
  + Jesus is working in a very public fashion to announce His
* In v.17, Matthew summarizes the message that Jesus was delivering to Israel in those early days of His ministry
  + Much like John the Baptist, Jesus was saying, *“repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*
    - Mark adds that Jesus said, *“the time is fulfilled”* and *“believe in the Gospel”*
    - The full message Jesus preached was, *“Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand.”*
  + We know what Jesus meant by repent, because it’s the same message John the Baptist was preaching, which we studied back in Chapter 3
    - And believing in the Gospel sounds easy enough to understand too
    - But what exactly was *the Gospel* at this point?
* Today, we define the Gospel as Paul taught it
  + The Gospel is the testimony that Jesus died on a cross for our sins, was buried and raised again after three days (1 Cor 15, Rom 10)
    - If you believe that testimony, if you trust in Jesus’ death to reconcile you to God and bring you into Heaven, then you will be
    - If you don’t accept that message, you will pay the price for your sins, which is eternal from God
  + In Jesus’ day, Jesus hadn’t died yet, so what was the Gospel message Jesus preached while He was alive?
    - The Gospel Jesus preached is captured in the second half of Matthew’s statement in v.17
    - Jesus preached that the time is , meaning that the promises of the Old Testament prophets were being fulfilled fight in front of them, in His life
    - And specifically, the time had come for the promised Kingdom of the Messiah, for the King Who would rule His people in peace
  + Jesus was saying, the time for God to fulfill all those promises had now arrived, and so the Kingdom of God was ready to appear,
    - Jesus supported His claims by teaching from OT Scripture how He was fulfilling prophecy
    - And then Jesus performed supernatural miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit to His claims
    - By His teaching and His miracles, Jesus quickly attracted large crowds, and according to John, many believed in Jesus as Messiah
* If someone believed in Jesus’ Gospel, they were accepting Jesus as their Promised Messiah, which resulted in personal salvation
  + That person was also believing in Jesus’ promise to set up the Messianic Kingdom in that day
    - The Old Testament prophets taught extensively that the Messiah, when He came, would rule over a physical Kingdom on earth
    - The Messiah would sit on His throne in Jerusalem, presiding over many nations ruling in peace and justice
    - That’s what Jesus meant when He said the Kingdom of God was
  + During the days Jesus walked the earth, we could summarize the Gospel message this way
    - The message declared that salvation began with repenting from dead works of the Law and of disobedience to God
    - In place of these things, a person placed their trust in Jesus’ claims to be the promised Messiah in fulfillment of

**Matthew 4:18-22**

**18***One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living.*

**19***Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”*

**20***And they left their nets at once and followed him.*

**21***A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too.*

**22***They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.*

* This is all Matthew gives us about how Jesus selected His disciples
  + Later in Chapter 10, Matthew records Jesus assigning twelve of His disciples to a special role called, “”
    - For now, Matthew simply says Jesus found men along the way in Galilee
    - In v.18, Jesus calls two brothers from their fishing business on the Galilee, Simon and Andrew
    - And lo and behold, they just leave their nets and follow Jesus
  + Now when you read that, doesn’t it sound strange to you?
    - It doesn’t read like real life
    - Doesn’t it sound as if they were hypnotized?
    - Who drops everything in the middle of everyday life to begin a new life following someone around?
  + And nor should it, because that’s not how this happened
    - Once again, Matthew is leaving out some important details we find in the other Gospels
    - Beginning with the important point that this isn’t the first time Peter and Andrew met Jesus
    - In John’s Gospel, we get the account of their first meeting
* Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, following John’s ministry by the river Jordan along with John, who wrote the Gospel of John
  + After John baptized Jesus, he told Andrew and John to stop following him and to start following Jesus
    - Andrew and John left John the Baptist and started to follow Jesus
    - Soon after, Andrew introduces Jesus to his brother, Simon
    - Jesus immediately changed Simon’s name to , which means, “Rock”
    - Later, Jesus called Philip, who lived near Andrew and Peter in the Galilee, and then later Philip introduced Jesus to Nathaniel
  + One at a time, Jesus collected disciples around the region of Galilee
    - But it’s important to remember that Jesus collected these men

He had performed even a single miracle

* + - John says these encounters happened shortly after Jesus was baptized, prior to the wedding in Cana
    - These men were believing in Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ, and following Him based solely on Jesus’
    - They were clearly operating in faith
  + Later, these disciples joined Jesus as guests at the wedding in Cana, probably because they had been invited too
    - While at the wedding, John, Andrew and Peter witness Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine
    - As they see this miracle, John reports their faith was confirmed and strengthened

**John 2:11**

*This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.*

* After this, Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the Passover, and these same disciples join Him in Jerusalem
  + They followed Jesus, probably because as Jewish men, they were also required to attend the feast
  + They traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem and on His return to Galilee
  + They are also with Jesus when He has His encounter with the woman at the well in Samaria
* During all this time, John reports they called Jesus “rabbi”, or “ ”
  + But they also called Him “Christ”, or “ ”
  + They understood Jesus was the Messiah, but for them, the Messiah was principally a rabbi or teacher

**Luke 5:4-11**

**4***When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”*

**5***“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”*

**6***And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!*

**7***A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.*

**8***When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.”*

**9***For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.*

**10***His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.*

*Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!”*

**11***And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.*

* + These men knew Jesus was the Messiah, they had seen His miracles and heard the power of His teaching
    - But now, they witness a firsthand demonstration of His authority to rule over all things, including the
    - They’ve witnessed His divinity in a powerful, new way
  + And only then, does Jesus call them to make a new way of life, serving Him as fishers of men
    - Jesus is calling them to flip their way of life upside down
    - These men fished the sea, seeking earthly provision
    - They brought death to living things so they could enrich themselves
  + Now Jesus wants them to fish the land seeking heavenly provision
    - They would sacrifice themselves to bring eternal life to dead hearts
    - And in the face of Jesus’ display of divine power, they felt compelled to make the change