

Week 4: The Kingdom Building work begins!

**MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD:** MT 4:12-25 is the bite of Scripture you will chew on, talk to yourself about, ponder and plot about.

**PURPOSE:** To put the pieces of Matthew's word puzzle together so you begin to see the picture painted in this passage.

**METHOD:** Using your imagination in this "guided stroll through" the terrain in MT 4:12-25 to visualize the scenes Matthew describes.

**FOR REVIEW:** From MT 4:1-11, write down Jesus' three "governing" or "decision-making principles":

#1. MT 4:4 =

#2. MT 4:7 =

#3. MT 4:10

According to MT 4:1, when this temptation begins where is Jesus?

**A. WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. 4:12 "***When Jesus heard that John was arrested***"
  - a. What did he do?
  - b. From what place did he withdraw?
2. 4:13-16 "***Leaving Nazareth***"
  - a. To what place did Jesus move to live?
  - b. Beside what topography was this town?
  - c. What Old Testament prophet spoke about this area?
  - d. What did the prophet say about this area?
  - e. Why does Matthew say Jesus chose to move to this area?
3. 4:17 "***From that time Jesus began to preach***"
  - a. What was Jesus' message?
  - b. Before Jesus, who else had proclaimed this same message?
  - c. At this particular location, who would hear Jesus' message?
4. 4:18 "***As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee***"
  - a. Who did Jesus see?
  - b. What were their names?
  - c. What were they doing and why?
  - d. What challenge did Jesus give them?
  - e. What did he promise to do if they accepted his challenge?
  - f. What was their response?

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5. 4:21 ***“Going on from there.”***
  - a. Who did he see next?
  - b. What were their names?
  - c. Where were they and what were they doing?
  - d. Who was with them in this place?
  - e. What did Jesus do?
  - f. What was their response?

**B. WHAT DOES 4:12-22 MEAN?**

1. In Matthew’s description of Jesus going from place to place to begin building the kingdom, what aspect of his building process does this represent?
2. Beginning in MT 3&4, Jesus appears in five different places:  
**place 1 = (3:1)** by the Jordan River where John is baptizing;  
**place 2 = (4:1)** in the wilderness of Judea where the Spirit leads him to be tempted by the devil;  
**place 3 = (4:12)** back to Nazareth in Galilee when he learns of John’s arrest;  
**place 4 = (4:13)** goes to live in Capernaum;  
**place 5 = (4:18)** walking by the Sea of Galilee.
  - a. According to 4:17, at place 4 what does Jesus accomplish?
  - b. According to 4:18-22, at place 5 what does Jesus accomplish?
  - c. What did Jesus promise the four fishermen he is going to do?
  - d. By their choice, what have the four fishermen now become in Matthew’s account?
  - e. In today’s modern phrasing, in what kind of group do these four fishermen now participate?

**B. WHAT DOES 4:23-25 SAY?**

1. ***“Jesus went throughout Galilee.”***
  - a. At this point in Matthew’s “written descriptive map,” who goes along with Jesus as he travels around Galilee?
  - b. What three things does Jesus do as he travels about?
2. ***“News about him spread.”***
  - a. To what place did the news spread?
  - b. What did the news spreading cause to happen?
  - c. What 4 types of diseases does Matthew report?

d. What did Jesus do about these diseases?

3. ***“Large crowds”***

- a. From what places did these people come?
- b. What did the crowd do?

C. **WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF 4:23-25?**

- 1. What are the four fishermen doing as Jesus travels throughout Galilee?
- 2. Of the three things in verse 23 Jesus did on his travels, with which one are you most familiar and with which do you have the least personal experience?
- 3. How do you think the news about Jesus spread?

D. **QUESTIONS FOR PONDERING AND EXAMINING YOURSELF:**

- 1. Conclusion: in MT 28:16-20, when the Risen Jesus commanded the eleven remaining disciples, ***“In your going, make disciples of all peoples,”*** the only thing they could possibly understand Jesus to mean for them to do was “do with others what I have done with you in making you disciples.” What do you “see” in MT 4:12-25 that Jesus did in making these four “disciples”?
- 2. If one of Matthew’s purposes is to write out for future generations ***“how Jesus’ made disciples,”*** what did you discover from these verses about how he did it?
- 3. Generally speaking, i.e., apart from Jesus or a specific “teacher,” what is a “disciple” & what does a disciple do?
- 4. Do you think of yourself as “disciple of Jesus?” Why or why not?
- 5. How would viewing yourself today as one of Jesus’ disciples change how you read and study the New Testament?
- 6. What would have to change in your thinking to view yourself as a “disciple of the Risen Jesus”?
- 7. Why do you suspect that it is important to change your mind about how you view yourself?
- 8. In this guided stroll through MT 4:12-25, what are the most important things you learned about yourself and about Jesus?