

## School of Christ

Lesson 1

### THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matthew 4:12-23

## LAUNCHING INTO A NEW YEAR... 2019

- › *Setting markers for our growth in Christ*
- › *What spiritual disciplines will help me?*
- › *We are enrolled in the 'School of Christ'*

## CHRIST'S CALL

- › *Leaving and turning to Jesus*
- › *Not just once but throughout our lives*

## I. THE TIME

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

Matthew 4:12

## JOHN THE BAPTIST'S ARREST

- › *Precipitates Jesus' ministry*
- › *'Arrest' = to deliver up (also used of Jesus' betrayal)*
- › *Thrown into prison of Machaerus - a fortress of Herod near the Jordan River*

*...describes that time in the future when everything that opposes God's good purposes for the world and for human life will be destroyed and all that expresses those purposes will be lifted up.*

*Thomas G. Long*

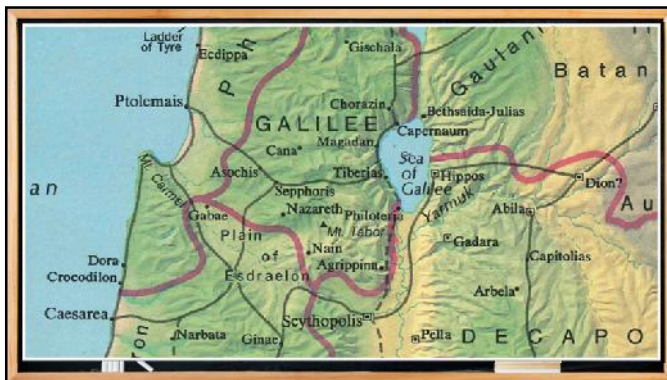
## II. THE PLACE

He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun + Naphtali,

Matthew 4:13

## ON THE MOVE

- › Jesus leaves Nazareth and moves to Capernaum – maybe Peter's house



## GALILEE

- › A small province - 50 by 25 miles
- › A heavy population around the Sea of Galilee
- › A mixed population far from the purity of Judea

- › A place which had been ravaged by the Assyrian Empire (734 BCE)
- › Now is to receive the light of Christ (Matthew 4:15-16)

## NO RANDOM CHOICE

- › Jesus' ministry is not shaped by random choice - Isaiah 9:1-2
- › 'Galilee of the gentiles' (4:15) speaks of the Gospel of light proclaimed to all the nations

### III. THE MESSAGE

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Matthew 4:13

### A MESSAGE OF INVITATION

- › Repent: turn to God (same message as John the Baptist – Matthew 3:1)
- › To receive the invitation to life delivered by Jesus

### RECEIVE AND ENTER

- › The Kingdom of Heaven is inaugurated by Jesus' person + work
- › Kingdom of Heaven = Kingdom of God
- › The new work of God has begun - the new creation that Paul proclaims

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

### ENTER THE SCHOOL OF CHRIST

- › This is a prelude to the symphony
- › Acts as a prelude to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

### ENTER THE SCHOOL OF CHRIST

- › A call to a reorientation of life
- › Make Jesus the centre of our lives and to keep listening for the voice of the Father

## IV. THE DISCIPLES

Matthew 4:18-22

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.'

Matthew 4:18-19

### CALLING HIS DISCIPLES

- › Two sets of brothers
- › All four fishermen - doing their day-to-day jobs
- › 'come, follow me' (v19)

### THEIR RESPONSE

- › Swift - 'immediately' they left (v20,22)
- › They recognize something in Jesus' call - leave everything and follow

- › The 'cost of discipleship' (Bonhoeffer)
- › Become 'fishers of men + women'
- › Enter God's dream of a new humanity

## V. THE MINISTRY

Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus went throughout Galilee,  
teaching in their synagogues and  
proclaiming the good news of the  
kingdom and curing every disease  
and every sickness among the  
people.

Matthew 4:23

### THREE-FOLD MINISTRY

- › Teaching, preaching, healing
- › A ministry of both word and deed

### A SHARED MINISTRY

- › We are invited to engage in this ministry as we follow Jesus
  - Repentance
  - Reorientation
  - Growth in Jesus
  - Take our place in the narrative of God