

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes April 19, 2006

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Matthew 4:12-25

- 12: *Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee;*
13: *and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper'na-um by the sea,
in the territory of Zeb'ulun and Naph'tali,*
14: *that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*
15: *"The land of Zeb'ulun and the land of Naph'tali,
toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --*
16: *the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."*
- 17: *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
- 18: *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 sea; for they were fishermen.*
19: *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
20: *Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*
- 21: *And going on from there he saw two other brothers,
James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother,
in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets,
and he called them.*
22: *Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.*
- 23: *And he went about all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues and
preaching the gospel of the kingdom and
healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.*
24: *So his fame spread throughout all Syria,
and they brought him all the sick,
those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics,
and he healed them.*
25: *And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decap'olis
and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.*

Discussion Notes:

Three central questions for today's discussion:

- 1: How do we discern God's call in our lives?
- 2: Was Jesus establishing an entirely new organization?
- 3: What was / is the "Gospel"?

Question 1: How do we discern God's call in our lives?

- God does have a call for each one of us:
 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* (Eph 2:8-10)
- How do we discern this? Read the signs?
 - We see models of this in the life of Jesus & his disciples:
 - 1st, in life of Jesus: 4:12-17
 - 12: *Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee;*
 - 13: *and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper'na-um by the sea, in the territory of Zeb'ulun and Naph'tali,*
 - 14: *that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*
 - 15: *"The land of Zeb'ulun and the land of Naph'tali,*
toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --
 - 16: *the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,*
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

 - 17: *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*
 - "When he heard . . . he withdrew . . . he went and dwelt in . . . from that time Jesus began to preach . . ."
 - Very purposeful like 3:13 . . .
 - John 's appearance was a SIGN for Jesus to lv Galilee for baptism;
 - John's arrest was a SIGN for Jesus to RETURN to Galilee & begin ministry;
 - "that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled"
 - Not to make it true, but (a) it IS true and (b) it confirms who he is.
 - Isaiah 8:23-9:1
 - Land captured from Israel by Asyrians aprox 734-21 BC
 - Mixed population & oppression
 - "Sat in darkness . . . seen a great light"
 - "From that time Jesus began to preach" . . . the baton had been passed:
 - Jn: "Repent . . ." and baptism
 - Jesus: "Repent . . ." and baptism
 - Peter (Acts 2:38): "Repent and be baptized . . ."
 - 2nd: in the life of his first disciples: 4:18-22
 - 18: *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 sea; for they were fishermen.*
 - 19: *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*
 - 20: *Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

 - 21: *And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother, in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.*
 - 22: *Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.*
 - "Sea of Galilee" - - close proximity to Gentiles
 - Their first meeting?

- Peter & Andrew and James & John
 - Already established leaders in minds of 1st readers;
 - Ptr & Andrew: “fishing” Evangelization
 - James & John: “mending” renewal
- “Follow me . . . I will make you . . . immediately they left & followed”
 - chosen / called BUT must freely respond for Jesus to empower them;
 - John 15: vine, branches, fruit producers WITH Jesus!

Question 2: Was Jesus establishing an entirely new organization?

*18: 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 sea; for they were fishermen.*

19: And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20: Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

- Danger of reading modern Christian organization back into the story.
- Actually no evidence that Jesus was creating a new organization
 - Just like itinerant teachers of his day . . .
 - Later in Mt 4 he emphasizes that he is not going to change . . .
 - 17: "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them.*
 - 18: For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.*
- He continued without hesitation his involvement within Jewish religious tradition:
 - 23: And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues*

Question 3: What was / is the “Gospel”?

*23: And he went about all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues and
preaching the gospel of the kingdom and
healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.*

*24: So his fame spread throughout all Syria,
and they brought him all the sick,
those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics,
and paralytics,
and he healed them.*

*25: And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decap'olis
and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.*

- Summary of his entire ministry:
 - “went abt all Galilee” . . . went to the people
 - “teaching . . . preaching . . . healing . . .” . . . Word & Sacrament
 - “fame spread . . . they brought him the sick . . . great crowds followed”
- What was / is the “Gospel of the kingdom” he was preaching?
 - Average answer today: Jn 3:16, as interpreted by “Paul”
 - BUT this was NOT what Jesus was preaching! . . .
 - Nothing about his death & resurrection, except to disciples;
 - == The Sermon on the Mount!
 - Believing in him, following him, loving God & neighbor.