

## **Matthew 4:12-17, Mark 1:14-15 – Preaching the Kingdom**

### **Introduction**

1. Between Mark 1:13 and verse 14 is a period of one year
2. Jesus' first year of ministry is marked by obscurity
3. The Gospel of John fills in the blank between 13-14; 1<sup>st</sup> year
  - a. John 1:15 – John declares the greatness of Jesus
  - b. John 1:15-43 is one year; Mark 1:14 parallels v 43
  - c. John 1:35f – Jesus' call of salvation to his disciples
  - d. John 2 – Jesus' miracle in Cana (water into wine); cleansing the temple in Jerusalem, first Passover mentioned
  - e. John 3 – Jesus meets with Nicodemus
  - f. John 3:22-end of chapter – Eight month period; His disciples were baptizing near John the Baptist
  - g. John 4 – Jesus HAD to go through Samaria
  - h. John 4:43 – Jesus goes into Galilee preaching, healing (such as the official's son), rejection at Nazareth
4. Year 1 – obscurity, 2 – popularity, 3 – difficulty/hostility

**Main Idea** The preaching of Jesus concerned the Gospel and Kingdom of God. This preaching included repentance from Sin and faith in the Good News of Christ the Lord.

### **Ministry Shift: John Arrested (Mark 1:14a, Matthew 4:12)**

1. John the Baptist is arrested by King Herod – causing a move in Jesus' ministry from obscurity to popularity
2. John the Baptist's ministry lasted 18 months – then imprisoned and eventually give his life for the sake of the Gospel

### **Ministry Site: Prophecy Fulfilled (Mk 1:14b, 15a; Mat 4:12b-16)**

1. Jesus goes to Capernaum in Galilee (**Mat 4:13**)
  - a. Jesus would do the majority (90%) of his ministry here
  - b. Jesus calls his disciples here
  - c. Was a major route from the North along the Damascus Rd. – Galilee of the Gentiles (**v 15**)
  - d. Jesus feeds the 5k, walks on water, calms the storm, preaches the Sermon on the Mount here
2. God's design was for Jesus to live here – *the time is fulfilled*
  - a. A fulfillment of Isaiah 9:1-2
    - i. 700 AD – Judah is facing threat from Assyrian Empire
    - ii. Isaiah prophesies to King Ahaz God is the deliverer
    - iii. Ahaz is told to trust in God, not alliances
    - iv. The Northern Kingdom of Israel will face disaster – 722 BC Assyria conquers Israel (Zebulun & Naphtali)
    - v. Gentile nations came and settled the north; animosity

- iv. God promises to send hope – light into the darkness
- a. The gloom & darkness would depart: what is the darkness?
  - i. Ignorance: Lack of Knowledge – do not know God
  - ii. Moral, Sin: The Gentiles seduced them with idolatry
  - iii. Judgment leading to Death: The Northern Kingdom would fall & go into exile (final stage of faithlessness)
- b. God still provided grace – the coming Messiah, Light

### **Ministry Proclamation: The Gospel/Kingdom of God (Mk 1:14b-15, Mat 4:17)**

1. The main ministry of Jesus was preaching the Gospel of God and the Kingdom of God
2. The Lord has come as a Light to the Nations with a message
3. Jesus' Message was one statement with two commands, four important words
  - a. The Gospel of God – Good news, declaration, proclamation, announcement, and testimony of Jesus Christ
    - i. Focused Understanding – Core message of the Cross – Atonement and Forgiveness of Sin (**See 1 Cor 15:3-6**)
    - ii. Expansive Idea – The Biblical Narrative, OT to NT (**Matt 4:23**)
    - iii. Only One Gospel – God is the source and substance
  - b. The Kingdom of God – God's Reign & Rule; Where the King is, His rule is acknowledged, enemies vanquished
    - i. The Long awaited for Messiah – *the time is fulfilled*
    - ii. It is already, but not yet – *Thy Kingdom Come*
    - iii. Heaven breaking into Creation – reversing the curse; Jesus displayed this reversal in His ministry
  - iv. Grace now, Glory later
  - v. We enter the Kingdom by By God's Grace
- c. God's Grace to Repent
  - i. Not just emotion, but an action – a turning from Sin, Idolatry
  - ii. Repentance is a gift of Grace from God – He works on the heart to show the person, they are the problem
  - iii. God is merciful to those who understand they deserve His justice & at the Cross Jesus received it instead
- d. God's Grace to Believe/Have Faith
  - i. Belief & Faith are gifts from God in order for one to turn to Jesus for salvation
  - ii. Belief is to turn to God and commit one's self wholly to a new object of faith – Jesus Christ the Lord
  - iii. It is Sacrifice and Submission of one's life to Christ
  - iv. Believers embrace Jesus & His commands; love Jesus