

## MATTHEW 4:17-5:4

A. Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

1. Remember when Jesus' Galilean ministry began it wasn't the beginning of His ministry. It was actually the beginning of the **end**, the last year of His three-year ministry. Two years had already passed/elapsed.
  - a. His Judean ministry (Jerusalem) shows the record that He came unto His own and they received Him **not** (John 1:11). The book of John's first three chapters demonstrate the national religious leaders **rejection** of Christ's first two years' ministry before He **withdrew** into Galilee.
  - b. These two years represented John the Baptist's and Christ's Judean ministry, which was rejected. We have a limited record of the Judean ministry. John is the **only** one who records it in John 1:19-3:36. Chronologically, this two-year ministry also fits between Mark 1:13-14, Luke 4:13-14, and here in Matthew 4:11-12.
2. John the Baptist is cast into prison in John 3:25-30. With John the Baptist's ministry **complete**, Jesus' ministry moves into Galilee (John 4:1-3, Matt. 4:12), marking **officially** that Messiah had been rejected. It is in Galilee that Jesus withdrew Himself from national Israel and began dealing with **in**dividuals.

**\*\*Christ begins His Galilean ministry in rejection until:**

John 4:3 - [He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.]

Matthew 19:1 - [And it came to pass, *that* when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;]

3. Again, if not for apostle John's gospel (1:19-3:36), we would have on record only one year of our Lord's public ministry! His Galilean ministry [the kingdom of heaven is at hand] was not for national Israel but for individuals.

B.

1. In these verses, we have the call of Peter and Andrew (brothers), and James and John (brothers). To

Matthew 4:18-22 - And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. Matt. 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matt. 4:20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him. Matt. 4:21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. Matt. 4:22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

get a better understanding of this calling read Luke 5:1-11.

2. This isn't the first time that **men** are compared to fish:

Habakkuk 1:14-15 - [And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, *that have* no ruler over them? Hab. 1:15 They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.]

Matthew 13:47 - [Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:]

3. For these men to leave **all** behind goes along with Israel's kingdom program. It called for the leaving of present possessions, in view of the **future** that the kingdom promised them.

Matthew 6:25, 33 - Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Matt. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 19:20-22 - The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Matt. 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. Matt. 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Luke 12:32-33 - Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Acts 4:32, 34-35 - And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. Acts 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, Acts 4:35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Luke 14:25-27, 33 - And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, Luke 14:26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

\*He didn't want them to be like Lot's wife and look **back!**

Luke 9:59-62 - And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Luke 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. Luke 9:61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

C.

1. **A**lways associated with the gospel of the kingdom was healing, healing, healing. Why is that?

Matthew 4:23-25 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Matt. 4:24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. Matt. 4:25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, and *from* Jerusalem, and *from* Judaea, and *from* beyond Jordan.

Notice one of the promises for the kingdom:

Isaiah 33:24 - [And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein *shall be* for given *their* iniquity.]

\*When Christ came preaching the gospel of the kingdom, the healings were to demonstrate that the kingdom was **near** - there would be **no** sickness.

2. Isaiah 35:3-6 - Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Isa. 35:4 Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you. Isa. 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Isa. 35:6 Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

\*When Christ returns, He will take care of Israel's enemies and heal the believers as they go into the kingdom.

3. Jeremiah 30: 9, 17 - But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. Jer. 30:17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, *saying*, *This is Zion*, whom no man seeketh after.

Note: So when Christ (prophesied Messiah) comes in Matthew 4, He is proclaiming the kingdom and identifying Himself with **evidence** of healings. He's giving them a **foretaste** of what He will do for believers in the kingdom.

4. Notice in verse 24b [and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, ... he healed them].

\*There were **no** misfires and it was not a matter of faith.

Acts 5:16 - There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Mark 6:5-6 - And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. Mark 6:6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

\*All He could do for these people was to **heal** them. Why? It was because of their unbelief. They did not have any faith, yet, He healed a **few**. For healing the issue was not faith.

5. Map:



D. Matthew 5:1-2 - And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: Matt. 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

1. Christ withdraws from the multitude-crowds into a high place where He begins to teach His **disciples** what is now known as the Sermon on the Mount.  
\*It was only those who were willing to forsake **all** and follow Him who would become His disciples.
2. Christ would be teaching them what their **responsibility** would be in His absence (they did not know that for awhile). He would begin to teach them that the kingdom was near.  
\*\*Each one of these men had a beard, did not eat **pork**, went to the **temple**, worshipped on the **Sabbath**, was **circumcised**, and was a **Jew**.  
\*\*When we go down these verses, we are not dealing with Christian doctrine but Israel's (there is some application for us).
3. The Sermon on the Mount has to do with the **principles** of the Kingdom of Heaven that will be on earth one day (1000 years). Matthew is describing kingdom living. It is about what the **lifestyle** of a kingdom saint is going to be.

\*\*It is describing those who go through the tribulation into the kingdom. The established kingdom will produce a certain godly way of life, prosperity, blessings, and happiness to all mankind. As we look at the passage, we will see a spontaneous living for **other** people. The way that comes about is shown in Ezekiel 36:26-28 - [A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. Eze. 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Eze. 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.]

4. There are things here that just are **not** for the Body today.

Examples:

- a. Matthew 5:5 - Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- b. Matthew 5:19 - Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least **commandments**, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- c. Matthew 5:22 - But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.
- d. Matthew 5:23 - Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
- e. Matthew 5:38-40 - Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: Matt. 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. Matt. 5:40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.
- f. Matthew 5:41 - And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

\*\*The point is, many of the details in the Sermon on the Mount do not fit today's dispensation of grace. It is Israel's doctrine and **not** ours for today.

5. There are ethics here that are what Paul teaches. If you take Romans 12 and put it beside Matthew 5, there are **similarities**. This is because Paul says to be filled with the Spirit-be living through the Spirit, and that is the life that the Little Flock **will** be living in the kingdom.
  - a. Israel - Ezekiel 36:27 - And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.
  - b. Us - Romans 8:4 - That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Note: There are great verses that have great truth and value. We are not trying to depreciate them in any way, but we are trying to teach them as to where they **fit** in the passage doctrinally and dispensationally. It is first getting the **correct** interpretation and then gleaning some applications.

E.

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. The word

"Blessed" is used in each of the verses 3-11. The Beatitudes are the blessed ones. It is being blessed **beyond** one's circumstances. It is having an untouchable joy.

2. [the poor in spirit:] This is one's attitude toward themselves and life. The Kingdom's spiritual attitude will be **humility**.
  - a. They know they are entirely **un**worthy of God's great love that is poured out on them (Israel).
  - b. It is the opposite of boasting and bragging. It is losing one's pride. It is being a **humble** one - theirs is the kingdom of God.

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Us? II Corinthians 3:5 - Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

F.

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

1. \*Here it is a specific type of mourning. When 1/3 of

Israel repents of their rejection of Christ when He returns, they will mourn over their **past** actions in their treatment of Him. Also, all **un**believers will mourn Christ's return. Believers will be **com**forted and go into the kingdom.

2. Matthew 24:30 - And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Revelation 1:7 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Zechariah 12:9-10 - And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Isaiah 51:11-12 - Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy *shall be* upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. Isa. 51:12 I, *even* I, *am* he that comforteth you: who *art* thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man *that* shall die, and of the son of man *which* shall be made *as* grass;

Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; Isa. 61:2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; Isa. 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.