

# Fulfilling the Ministry

## Matthew 4:12—25

### Introduction

In this series, we have read the Disciple Matthew's account of the ministry of Jesus

Again, we know that the purpose of Matthew is to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the King of the Jews

He is the King ushering in a kingdom

He is royal born!

He is the royal fulfillment of prophecies

He is the one that fulfills righteousness starting with baptism in Matthew 3

He fulfills victory of satanic temptations in Matthew 4

Here He comes to fulfill ministry as the Messiah

In these later verses of Matthew Chapter 4, we see early actions

### Between Chapter 4:11 and verse 12

1. All events recorded in John 1:19 – 3:36 John saying Behold the Lamb of God/ Call of Philip and Nathanael/ Turning water into wine/ John saying He must increase and I must decrease.
2. The events of Luke 4:16 His rejection in Nazareth.

### Verses 12-17 His Chose His Place of Ministry

1. He departed into Galilee
2. He left Nazareth
3. He chose Galilee for strategic reasons
4. Barclay: "Judaea is on the way to nowhere but Galilee is on the way to everywhere."
5. Galilee Sea Port / Roman garrison / Tax Station
6. Trade Route from Damascus to Caesarea
7. Caravans of Jewish and Gentile tradesmen traveled through Galilee
8. Historians Josephus and Strabo both write about Galilee having Egyptians, Phoenicians, Arabians, and Greeks
9. 1 Maccabees 5 "Galilee population is largely gentile and heathen"
10. He went to Galilee to fulfill the prophecy

11. Verse 13-16
12. Isaiah 9:1-2 Those that walk in darkness have seen a great light
13. Those in the region and in the shadow of death: Light has sprung up
14. This is prophetic and symbolic of His purpose for coming
15. He came to shine light in dark places
16. He came for the Jews but also for the gentile that was in the dark

### **Verses 18-22 He Called Partners for Ministry**

1. Simon and Andrew
2. James and John
3. All working and mending their nets in their trade
4. Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men
5. They immediately left and followed
6. Left = abandoned
7. They left their old way and followed in the new way
8. We too have been called
9. We too must follow in steps

### **Verses 23-25 He loved the People in Ministry**

1. He taught
2. He preached
3. The gospel and the kingdom
4. Healing all manner of sicknesses, diseases, tortures. Possessed, lunatics. Palsy and He healed them
5. His fame went throughout Syria
6. Great multitudes followed from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and Jordan
7. Verse 23 "Among the people"
8. Rabbis used to view true righteousness by withdrawing into the desert and living in full solitude away from people. Jesus did not withdraw but immersed himself among the people
9. Jesus changed the way we fulfill righteousness
10. We must minister to people with needs

## **Conclusion**

1. Jesus found a desperate place to shine the light
2. Jesus chose partners to serve Him in ministry
3. Jesus went to the people that needed Him most

## **Challenge**

1. Are you willing to go to strategic places to be a light?
2. Are you following your calling in ministry and are you recruiting disciples?
3. Are you truly helping people?