

PROMISE OF THE MINISTRY!
I WILL MAKE YOU(V19)
MATT CH4:12-25

RE-CAP

- Ch1:1-17 - JESUS is the fulfilment of God's promises to both Abraham and David!
- Ch1:18-27 - Joseph, the “RIGHTEOUS MAN!”
- Ch2:1-12 - Getting JESUS' identity leads to worship!
- Ch3:1-17 - JESUS needed to be baptised by John to fulfil all righteousness!
- Ch4:1-11 - The Son begins the invasion of Satan's domain!

Matthew uses the term “fulfil/fulfilled” which occurs 18 times in the Gospel – Ch1:22, Ch2:15, Ch2:17, Ch2:23, Ch3:15, Ch4:14, Ch5:17, Ch5:18, Ch8:17, Ch12:17, Ch13:14, Ch13:35, Ch21:4, Ch24:34, Ch26:54, Ch26:56, Ch27:9 and Ch27:35.

ILLUSTRATION

Does anybody know who Frederick Morgan was? He was the Lieutenant General put in charge of planning for D-DAY. On the 6th June 1944, 160,000 troops were deployed for “Operation Overlord”, which was designed to defeat evil. An evil that was in error, about truth. An evil that murdered fellow human beings, by committing some of the worst atrocities ever experienced by mankind. An evil that believed in a so called “master race”. An evil that was organised and effective.

PLACE OF THE MINISTRY! V12-17

- V12 – Galilee
- V15 – Galilee
- V18 – Galilee
- V23 – Galilee
- V25 – Galilee

We are told in v12 that Jesus hears of John's imprisonment and so leaves Judea and heads back to Galilee. Now some may think that because of this Jesus is in some ways “retreating”, if so, then we couldn't be more wrong! Why? Herod Antipas is the one that has had John imprisoned (Matt Ch14:1-12 + Mark Ch6:14-29), and Herod rules Galilee and Perea, so Jesus is not retreating because of John's imprisonment, He is being strategic!

Jesus chooses Galilee to be the place, where His public ministry takes place! Why Galilee? Look at the prophecy v14-16, the land of Zebulun and Naphtali is known for it's mixed ethnicity, Jews and Gentiles, it's known for darkness, it's known for people living in the “shadow of death”, in other words – hopelessness! This region was first invaded around 732 BC and for many centuries was governed by foreign

rulers, what better place for the “light”, Jesus, after starting to invade Satan's domain (Ch4:1-11), to start His public ministry!

PERSONNEL OF THE MINISTRY! V18-22

Why these people? Why fishermen? Couple of things are worth pointing out here, firstly it was custom in those days for disciples to approach a teacher and request that they become his disciples, here, Jesus does the opposite. Secondly, in John Ch1:35 – Ch4:3, the first year of Jesus' ministry is covered, and so we learn that for some of the disciples they had already been around Jesus, watching Him, for around a year before Jesus called them. It wasn't the case that Jesus “zapped” them with some “miracle dust” and they then just immediately followed him! Thirdly, from John's account we learn that these four disciples along with Philip were from this area, namely, Galilee!

Wow! Jesus chooses the place of ministry and personnel of ministry. He also makes a promise of ministry! “I will make you fishers of men” (v19). What a promise! It's Jesus who makes disciples!

POWER OF THE MINISTRY! V23-25

What is Matthew showing us through the first 4 chapters of his book? Jesus comes through the most villainous of villains genealogy, his step-father is a “chippy”, he is subject of a teenage birth, he is hunted as a toddler to be murdered, becomes an asylum seeker, ends up living in a place that's only claim to fame is that nothing “good comes from there” and yet Jesus does something that no other human could do, he resists Satan's tempting! The two kingdoms clash, but this time, God's kingdom starts to take ground from Satan's domain!

Matthew now records for us further “power” of the kingdom, in the form of teaching, preaching and healing! Teaching is the explanation of the meaning and significance of the preaching. Preaching is the proclamation of certainties, i.e., truth! Jesus is not satisfied to just preach and teach, but is able and willing to heal people, freeing them from their sin and Satan's grip.

This is clear evidence that the long awaited king and his kingdom have come!

APPLICATION

How do you see the people living and working around you? Do you see them, as Jesus sees them, in darkness, or in the shadow of death, with no hope? How can you be light to them? All of us who have entered the light (JESUS) now bear the responsibility as missionaries of CHRIST!

JESUS, and only JESUS, will make disciples as we follow Him! Discipleship “*means that we place as the priority of our lives joining with Jesus in reaching our daily world with the good news of life in the kingdom of heaven*”.

What can we learn from Jesus' model for ministry, i.e., preaching, teaching and healing?