

**The Gospel of Matthew #23**

**JESUS IS FULL OF SURPRISES**

**Matthew 4:12-17**

Matthew's outline: divisions marked by "from that time" (v17)

I. 1:1 -- 4:16: Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ as King: certification of prophecy, baptism, temptations

II. 4:17 – 16:20: Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ as King: bringing the Kingdom with Words & Works

III. 16:21 – 28:20: Jesus' suffering and \_\_\_\_\_ as King; how He won and extends His Kingdom

Remember: the Gospel is not about how we live, but about Jesus

**I. WHEN: 4:12**

4:12 is a year or more after 4:11. John 1-4 alone tells us about that time

Early Judean ministry: Jn 1:35-51

Calls Andrew and brother Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel

Early Galilean ministry: Jn 2:1-12

Wedding in Cana: first miracle; few days in Capernaum

Second Judean ministry: Jn 2:13- 3:36

Back to Jerusalem for Passover: cleansed temple; miracles and followers, including Nicodemus; parallel ministry to John

Jn 4:1-42: trip back to Galilee thru Samaria. 2 days in town near well where spoke to the woman

Jn 4:43-45 (cf Luke 4:14-30) visit Nazareth—leaves!

Main Galilean ministry begins: **Matt 4:12**; Mk 1:14; Lk 4:31; Jn 4:45

Why does Matthew omit all this?

He wants to highlight that the King of the Jews is King of the Nations (Mt 2:1ff; 8:5-13; 28:18-20)

So 4:15: "Galilee of the *Gentiles*"

## II. WHERE: 4:12-13

“Galil” = “circuit” of 20 Gentile cities W of Lake Galilee  
50 miles N – S ; 25 miles W – E.  
Capernaum: densest area of population

## III. WHAT: 4:17

To preach the same message as John: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

The difference: this is The King announcing it with Power: see v23-24  
OT background: God IS King (eg Psm 29:19; 99; Isa 6:5).

But there is coming a Day when He will be King in a new way (Isa 9:6-7; 24:23; Zech 14:9). This is the Messianic Kingdom, ruled by His Messiah. It will be a kingdom of power, glory, peace, where the nations will come to worship and recognize Him as the only Savior (Isa 45:5-6, 21-24)

Jesus says That Day is dawning! It is \_\_\_\_\_ because the King is here (cf. 12:28)

But it is also \_\_\_\_\_: we pray for His Kingdom to come (6:10)

We live in the time of that future Kingdom breaking into history in the down payment of the Holy Spirit. Do we love like that?

## IV. WHY: 4:14-16

To fulfill **Isa 9:1-2**:

- Distress: Assyrian invasion, esp on these tribes: (II Kgs 15:29): Isa 8:4ff
- Darkness: Isa 8:19-22: ignorance – demonic – gloomy life

But these humbled He will honor and bring Light

How? Isa 9:6-7: the Son-King will come to rule!

So Jesus, against all Messianic expectations, sets up His base of operations in Capernaum, Galilee of the Gentiles!

Jesus is full of surprises.

Grace is full of surprises.

We like to think living by the Law is at least predictable. Yes: darkness is guaranteed.

Grace is a surprise party from a loving Father.