

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew."
- * Matthew was a Jewish man writing about the Jewish Messiah to a Jewish audience. As we study his account of the life and ministry of Jesus (Y'shua) we need to keep looking at it from that context.
- * Up to this point, we have considered the preparation phase of the Messiah's Ministry. We have seen His Linage, His Birth, His Forerunner and His Inaugural Preparation.
- * Today, we transition into the beginning of His earthly Messianic ministry ... considering the Message of Messiah.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE P_____ (v. 12-16)**

A. Capernaum (כַּפְרַנְחָם) ... kaphar nakhum (cf. Numbers 23:29; Isaiah 40:1-5)

B. Galilee of the Gentile

1. THE W_____ OF I_____

2. THE G_____ OF G_____

II. THE P_____ (v. 17, 23) ... much of this was covered when we considered the message of John

A. The C_____ to R_____

B. The G_____ of the K_____

III. THE P_____ (v. 19-22)

A. The C_____:

B. The C_____:

C. The C_____:

INTROSPECTION

- * WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?
- * ARE YOU WILLING TO LEAVE YOUR OCCUPATION AND YOUR FAMILY TO FOLLOW THE MESSIAH?
- * ARE YOU INCREASINGLY BECOMING BURDENED FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD?
- * DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO BECOME A "FISHER OF MEN"?
- * HOW EXCITING IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO YOU?

IS SUNDAY MORNING THE ONLY TIME THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE "NEAR" IT?

- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * Is Christ's challenge to individuals only, or does it apply to the body as a whole as well?
- * How can we best follow in Christ's footsteps as an assembly? What would be the best way(s) to "go fishing"?