

“Excited or Dedicated?”

Matthew 4:23-25

Firework “Christians”?

Here in Matthew 4:23-25 we see Matthew explains, surmises Jesus’ ministry, and in a nutshell talks about the ministry (briefly explained) and the effects of the ministry on the people.

- What can we learn from these 3 verses?
- What can it teach us about our own discipleship?
- What is your response to Jesus’ ministry today?
- This passage sets off Jesus as no other:
 - He was either the Son of God and did all these things;
 - Or people will say these things were all made up.
 - But it certainly does not make Him a good man!!

Look at what Matthew is telling us about Jesus:

- I. Jesus’ ministry – disclosed (v.23)
 - A. Teaching – around, about Galilee (60x30miles)
In Synagogues...people were there; Jesus went where the people were.
Teaching – – passing on information, a text of scripture would be expounded...
Synagogue teaching and preaching was to discover truth, focusing on content. – It was expository!
 - B. Preaching – *proclaiming* the gospel of the Kingdom
 - C. Healing – (vs. 23-24)

Matthew describes the problems as “divers diseases & torments” and various symptoms:

1. Possessed with demons – caused directly by Satan
2. Lunatick – epileptics, ones who had convulsions or seizures
3. Had the palsy – wide range of crippling handicaps

All 3 of these: #1 represent the spiritual, #2 the mental/nervous, and #3 the physical, all overcome by Jesus’s healing power (end of v.24) “and He healed them all.”

Do you have a need this morning?

Jesus’ healing ministry (miracles) accomplished 4 things:

1. Proved He was divine; no human could ever do these.
2. Showed He was compassionate on the needy.
3. Miracles showed He was the prophesied Messiah.
4. Proved the coming kingdom was a reality.

And so, He healed without exception and no limits.

II. Jesus’ ministry – widespread (v.25)

A. Crowds – initial enthusiasm

B. Following – does this mean things are great?

Are these people truly excited about the Messiah?

Here in verse 25, the initial enthusiasm is more of a testimony of their own needs being met; than a testimony of their own commitment to Jesus as Messiah:

I believe Matthew is doing something here:

- Many believed, but the majority did not.
- There seems to be (as Matthew shows) an optimistic future for Christ’s ministry.
- But that’s not the case, is it?
- This same enthusiastic crowd for Jesus turned against Him, crucified Him.
- Maybe Matthew is providing a reality check for you? For his readers? That appearances can be deceiving...
- If these can be so enthusiastic...then reject later, initial responses can be wrong!
- There are those in ministry who can put on an act, be so pious, talk the talk, say all sorts of flowery things, but when the time comes: *when Jesus is all alone in the garden...*
- Are you willing to drink the cup of suffering?
 - People fall away – they had a feeling, an experience, but never experienced saving faith. All the excitement wore off.

Conclusion:

- If you truly know the Lord Jesus...
- The excitement never wears off!
- When you truly know the Lord, you know Him forever!
- Are you *really* born again?