

## *“A Look at Jesus’s Outreach”*

Matthew 4:12-17

Poem: [in bulletin] “Forgive Me God, I Had No Time”

How do we: “win to Christ by some small deed we have done”?

- How do you point people to Christ? – a Gospel presentation?
- Roman’s Road {3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 11:6; 4:5; 10:9-10,13}
- The Exchange
- Evangelism Explosion Outline
- Jesus said: “you are the light of the world & salt of the earth!”
- How so? [III. A young girl once consulted with her pastor...]
- [At a missionary meeting some young people were discussing, “ye are the salt of the earth...”]
- The power of your testimony [A young man was asked to preach...]
- [The power of a smile]
- Be an example: [Benjamin Franklin wanted to interest...]
- Your Godly influence: [In a cemetery a little white stone marked...]
- Outreach, your outreach! How is it? How is it going?

**Here we see Christ’s outreach,** [Matthew jumps a year after verse 11]

Jesus’s ministry [3 years]

- 1st year – obscurity {the Synoptics largely omit}
- 2nd year – popularity, as ministry becomes more public
- 3rd year – increasing rejection

We have nothing more about the 1st year (John fills in those details).

- Jesus was baptizing (1:27-40)
- His 1st miracle at the wedding of Cana (2:1-11)
- His 1st cleansing of the temple (2:12-25)
- His testimony to Nicodemus (3:1-21)
- His final public testimony of John the Baptist (3:22-26)
- Jesus’s ministry in Samaria (4:1-42) the woman at the well...

And so Matthew here picks up where John leaves off...

**Now here in Matthew 4:12-17 Matthew begins to show more of Jesus’ public ministry:**

- What did He do?
- Where did he go?
- As His ministry takes on a more of a “front page” view, he’s going to “ruffle more feathers.”
- But notice where He does that – our text shows us: 4:12-17
- Why is all this significant?

### 4 things I want you to see that this passage shows us:

I. He left Judea (v.12)

The question: Why?

- A. John’s imprisonment – He heard about
- B. The work there was finished
- C. To get away from the religious leaders

You see, it was a religious collision happening – between the message of the gospel, and the religious establishment – God’s truth /or/ Man’s ways - to get to God

II. He came to Nazareth – goes to His hometown.

In Luke 4:14-30 is where He reveals the nature of His ministry to the Gentiles:

- After He exposes their spiritual condition,
- He would not be accepted in His own country, His own hometown [v.22 is this not Joseph’s son?].
- They wanted to throw him off a cliff!!
- So, after they reject Him (as He said they would 4:23-27)

III. He settled at Capernaum (v.13)

- A. The city
- B. The people (15b) “Galilee of the Gentiles”

IV. His message

Same as John the Baptist – REPENT! Turn from your sin to be saved.

Preaching is the proclamations of certainties (truth) not the suggestion of possibilities. [MacArthur]

### Conclusion:

- The truth is still clear:
- You must repent, turn from your sin to be saved.
- You must repent Christian, to be right with God.
- Are you right with God? Are you repentant?
- Our church outreach begins with people right with God, seeking true repentance.
- Those that are right with Him will reach out as disciplers.
- So, I don’t ask when did you last witness? I ask, “are you truly repentant, walking with the Lord”?