

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

"The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mk 1:14-15

Galilee. 705 BC Threatened by Assyria

They will see only distress, darkness gloom...utter darkness (Is 8:22).

In the future he will honor Galilee...by the Way of the Sea...people walking in darkness have seen a great light...in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:1-2).

Galilee. 63 BC. Under Roman rule.

A **trade** route (Via Maris) connected Egypt, Syria and Babylon via Galilee. *The traffic and trade of three continents passed within its boundaries.* Jesus ministered along the 'super-highway' of the ancient world; most densely populated area in the Middle East.

204 towns and cities. 2-3 million people.

Abundant fertility. Social inequality. Terrible poverty. High Taxation. Health crisis.

Everyone was affected by dysentery, typhus, tuberculosis, plague and malaria.

Even the elite were desperate for cures. (Mt. 8:16-17) Matt 8:5-13; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:1-3).

People came **en masse** to Jesus with 'many demon-possessed people'. Jesus entered houses where people were sick with fever (Mk 1:30-31), laid hands on them (Mk 6:5; 8:23-25). touched the blind and deaf & used his sputum as part of a cure (Mark 7:31-37; Mark 8:22-26).

The missing miracle in the story of Jesus' healings is that he never got sick himself.

He "proclaimed the good news of God" "The time has come...kingdom is near."

Kingdom = the spiritual realm of light and life; freedom from sin and death.

Repent (turn) and believe (trust) = believe into his Life and live under his authority.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. 1:16-18

CALL

Jesus met two pairs of brothers -- **Peter and Andrew. James and John** – partners in fishing trade. They had met Jesus a year before when following John the Baptist.

Now Jesus calls: **'Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people.'** (1:17)

"The church exists because of what God had done in Christ, not because of any outstanding abilities in its first members" (Leon Morris).

At Once '...they left their nets and followed him.' (Mk 1:18) **An immediate response.**

'Thus the critical moments of life come with little warning, silently as the sunrise often, shedding divine illumination upon things unseen. Then we have reached a turning-point indeed, and everything depends upon the response of the soul to the claims and promises of God.' (Howard Taylor: Hudson Taylor The Early Years)

COST

Going means leaving old ways and preconceived plans – giving up small ambitions..

Going to people with the message of good news – people who are sinful and sick.

The call of Jesus meant James would lose his head (Acts 12). John was exiled to Patmos.

The brothers' occupation as fishermen prepared them for their role as apostles.

Where to cast line and throw net. How to bait hook. (Fish are friends not food).

Galilee - Gumeracha Nazareth – Norton Summit Sea of Galilee - Summertown

Who in your sphere can you pray for the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus.

'They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law....a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek... people were so amazed they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

(1:26-31)

"Authority" = out of his essence; the depths of his being in the authority of truth.

An unclean spirit was provoked and evicted by the presence of Jesus. **"If I drive out demons by the finger of God then the kingdom of God has come to you."** (Lk 23:42-43)

The reason the Son of God came was to destroy the devil's work.

(1 John 3:8)

"News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee."

Jesus is good news.

Jesus makes news.

SPREAD THE NEWS

What kind of church is newsworthy?

GOING

'Don't be alarmed...He is going ahead of you into Galilee.'

There you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:6-7)

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go.

When they saw him they worshiped him; some doubted. Then Jesus came to them,

FAITH HAS QUESTIONS – AND FAITH KNOWS WHERE TO TAKE THEM – TO GOD.

THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH IS NOT UNBELIEF BUT IS DISOBEDIENCE.

*"All **authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

GO

*Therefore, **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing***

*'as you
are going'*

*them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and **teaching** them **to obey everything** I have commanded you.*

*And surely, **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.'*

Matthew 28:18-20