

Matthew – Part 2

The Ministry of Jesus begins

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. Today we are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Gospel of Matthew. Our topic today: The Ministry of Jesus begins

Scripture Theme Song: Praise Him the Heights (Ps. 148:1-4)

- 1) John the Baptist
 - a) What was John the Baptist's urgent message before Jesus began His ministry as Messiah? Matthew 3:1-2
 - b) Why is repentance an essential preparation for Jesus to accomplish His purpose for us and through us?
 - c) Matthew 3:7-12 Why did John the Baptist rebuke the religious leaders so severely?
 - d) Why did John the Baptist have such a profound influence on people? Luke 3:15; John 3:30
- 2) The baptism of Jesus and Satan's challenge
 - a) Matthew 3:13-17
 - i) What does John discern when he meets Jesus?
 - ii) For whose benefit are the supernatural revelations at the baptism of Jesus?
 - b) Matthew 4:1 – Does the Spirit lead Jesus into temptation? (James 1:13)
 - c) The three temptations -Matthew 4:2-4; 4:5-7; 4:8-11
 - i) What important lessons can we learn from Satan's attack on Jesus in the wilderness?
 - ii) Notice the contrast between the pride of Satan and the humility of Jesus. Matthew 4:9 (Isaiah 14:12-14); Matthew 4:10 (Philippians 2:5-8)
- 3) The ministry of Jesus in Galilee
 - a) Matthew begins his account of the ministry of Jesus after what key event? Matthew 4:12-13
 - b) A study of John's Gospel reveals that more than a year of ministry occurred primarily in Judea prior to the imprisonment of John the Baptist. So why does Matthew focus in on the ministry of Jesus in Galilee?
 - i) Matthew 4:13-16 (prophesied by Isaiah 700 years earlier – Isaiah 9:1-2)
 - c) Why is it significant that Messiah should show a special interest in Galilee?
 - d) How did the Galileans respond to the ministry of Jesus? Luke 4:14-15
 - e) What important lesson can we learn from the ministry of Jesus in Galilee for our lives today?
- 4) The call to follow Jesus
 - a) Matthew 4:17-22
 - i) What did Jesus mean when He said, "I will make you fishers of men?"
 - b) How does Jesus transform these fishermen (and others like tax collectors and tradesmen) into fishers of men?
 - c) What reasons might these fishermen have given for not leaving everything to follow Jesus?
 - d) What lessons can we learn from the fact that they were willing to leave everything in response to the call of Jesus and join Him in His mission?