

REPENT!

Matthew 4:12-17
2 Chronicles 7:12-22
Acts 26:1-20



REPENT!

HIBC 13 September 2009

“A Passion to Know Him and Make Him Known!”

NOW! (v. 12)

- Between temptation and NOW.
 - Christ's first miracle in Cana. (John 2:1-11)
 - Christ cleansing the Temple. (John 2:12-25)
 - Christ's conversation with Nicodemus. (John 3:1-21)
 - Christ's in Samaria with the woman at the well in Sychar. (John 4:1-42)
- Christ came to **do** the will of the Father. He did everything **according** to God's timetable – not the world's.
 - ★ Christ was **never** in a hurry! (John 2:4; 17:1)
- John the Baptist's imprisonment:
 - Put in a dungeon by Herod Antipas.
 - John stood up against Herod's wickedness. (Matt 14:1-11; Luke 3:19-20)
 - John **did not** fear man, but God. (Proverbs 29:25; Matt 10:28; Mark 8:38)
 - John never **compromised**.

NOT Jerusalem! (vv. 12-16)

- Jesus, according to God's timetable (Hebrews 10:7; John 5:30; 6:38) leaves Nazareth and moves to Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee.
- This area was cosmopolitan – very international – hence the name, “Galilee of the Gentiles.”
- The area was originally given to the tribes of Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali (Joshua 19:10-39)
 - But these tribes failed to drive out the Canaanites of the land. (Judges 1:30-33).
 - God let the Canaanites stay in the land as **“thorns”** to the Jews – as a test. (Judges 2:1-3, 20-22)
 - As a result, an entire generation grew up **not knowing the LORD** (Judges 2:10)
 - In the 8th century, **GOD** brought the Assyrians against this part of the land and populated it with non-Jews. (2 Kings 15:29; 17:7-18)
- RESULT: These people now **SIT** in **DARKNESS**.
 - They are **ignorant and blinded** to their alienation from God! (Eph 4:18)

→ LESSONS FOR US!

- ★ BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS: Judges 3:5-8a; 1 Corinthians 15:33.
- ★ Christians are called to holiness! (2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1 Thess. 4:7)
- ★ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10) but only **fools** despise true wisdom! (Proverbs 1:7)

YET! To These Christ Comes!

- These were not sophisticated people like in Jerusalem. (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)
- He comes in fulfillment of the Scriptures. (Isaiah 9:1-2)
- He comes to bring **light** to the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:6)
- **LEARN** the severity and goodness of our LORD. (Romans 11:22)

Jesus PREACHED! (v. 17)

- To preach (κηρύσσω) – “to be a herald” – always with the suggestion of formality, gravity, and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed.
- “To preach is **not** to argue, reason, dispute, or convince by intellectual proof . . . we simply state in public . . . the truth which God bids us state. No argument can assail the truth . . . Men either believe the truth, as all sane men should, or refuse to believe it, as only fools venture to do.” RCH Lenski
- Christ came preaching the truth of God's good news and ultimatum to man.
- Christ preached with certainly and authority – **not** possibilities. (Matt. 7:29)
- Christ preached the Word of God. (John 3:34; 8:38; 12:49; 17:7-8, 14)

REPENT!

- REPENT (μετανοέω) - “to change one's mind” – with a change of mind there is a change of behaviour.
- TRUE REPENTANCE comes from a mind convinced of the truth, emotions inflamed by that knowledge, and a will moved by both. Without TRUE REPENTANCE one will never see the kingdom of Heaven. (John 3:3)
- Christ did come preaching **BELIEVE** but the results of believing – **REPENTANCE!**
- A faith without repentance is a DEAD FAITH. (James 2:14-26)

He Is King – He is the Kingdom (v. 17)

- Four requirements of a kingdom:
 - **A supreme/sovereign Ruler/Lord**. (Daniel 5:18-19; Revelation 17:14; 19:16)
 - **Territory**. (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 11:13-16; John 18:36)
 - **Law** (Hebrews 8:10; 10:16; 1 John 5:3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 14)
 - **Subjects** (Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:19; Hebrews 12:22-24)
- Either one is **inside** the Kingdom or **outside** the Kingdom (Matthew 8:11-12; 25:46)