

Sovereign Grace Church
“Kingdom Geography” outline
April 22, 2018

Matthew 4: 12-17

The last several verses of Matthew chapter four concern references to several aspects in the beginning of Jesus' ministry. They involve a ministerial transition from Judea to Galilee, the calling of several disciples and His doing the works of His Kingdom with the multitudes that followed Him.

It would be easy to just hurry through these passages to get to the Sermon but they do provide opportunity to reflect on certain aspects of what is involved in the Kingdom that Jesus is making available to us.

The first section concerns the seemingly inconsequential decision to move from ministering in Judea to Galilee. However, this passage includes another reference to an Old Covenant prophecy from Isaiah which concerns the entry of the Gospel to a region for darkness and death. Matthew saw Jesus' return to Galilee as a fulfillment of this prophecy. Even though this passage particularizes the focus of darkness and death upon the region of Galilee it can be legitimately generalized. So we will spend a bit of time contrasting Judea and Galilee in their responses to the Gospel and the scope of Jesus' invitation as ultimately going beyond these regions to including the whole world as His domain.

**1. The Twisting of God's Original Promise to Abraham
Gen. 12: 1-3**

2. A Closer Look at Judea and Galilee

- **Contrast**
Lk 18: 11-12; Matt 7: 22-23

- **Jesus' Departure v. 12**
Jn. 4: 1-4

- **Isaiah's Prophecy vv. 15-16**
Isa. 9: 1-2; Rom. 9: 4-5

3. **The Kingdom Promise not just to Judea and Galilee but to the world. v. 17**
Matt 28: 16, 18b-20

Lessons:

- **Darkness and Light? Psm 139: 23-24**

- **Where is Jesus' Kingdom? Jn. 13: 35**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection:

1. **Have you ever lived in a place or were a member of a group that thought of themselves as just a *little bit better*? Were they a little bit better? What about the group or place made it a little bit better? Is there a difference between outsiders singing your praises and you singing your own praises? Does God have a preference?**
2. **Have you ever deceived yourself about anything? How did you know? What is the difference between self-deception and self-awareness? Why may self-deception be particularly harmful? Can you make a case for its benefit?**
3. **That some folks think that they are better than they are is pretty commonplace. But is it possible to think that you are worse than you are? What is a particular danger of thinking that you are worse than you are? How does Romans 12: 3 relate to this?**
4. **Is any human being excluded from Jesus' invitation to enter His Kingdom? Could Hitler have entered? Are there any conditions for entry? If there are what are they? If Jesus receives you as you are...will He leave you there?**
5. **How is our society's rejection of objective knowledge and truth harming our society? How does this rejection affect people's understanding of the Gospel? Why can objective knowledge and truth not be refuted? Why do so many want to reject them?**