

Sovereign Grace Church
“Kingdom Ministry” outline
May 6, 2018

Matthew 4: 23-25

We have been looking at Matthew's introduction of Jesus' message of the availability of God's Kingdom in anticipation of looking more intently at His famous Sermon on the Mount of chapters 5-7. Matthew has presented Jesus as the fulfillment of all the prophetic passages of the Old Covenant which pointed to a coming Messiah who would deliver His people from their sins and usher them into times of refreshing and spiritual blessing. Unfortunately, over time this expectation of deliverance and blessing had devolved into a very base expectation of deliverance from material suffering and oppression....namely that of the oppressing Roman forces. It is not that release from such oppression was not a part of the fulfillment of these promises...it was just the the form of such release was completely unexpected. The type of deliverance that Jesus offered was so complete that it could be had with all of its joy and power even in the midst of continued material suffering and pain.

This morning we will complete this background study of Christ's Kingdom as we look at how Jesus' early ministry in Galilee developed. We will look at the area of His ministry, the work of His ministry and the response to His ministry.

1. The Area of Christ's Ministry

- **An Open Ministry v. 23a**
John 6:66

- **Seeking and Finding**
Matt. 7: 8; Dt. 4: 29; Rom. 3: 11; I Jn 4: 19

2. The Work of Christ's Ministry vv. 23b-24

- **Teaching**

- **Preaching**

- **Healing**

3. The Response to Christ's Ministry vv. 24a-25

- **What was it that attracted people to Jesus' ministry?
Jn 6: 67-68; 13: 35; 17: 21**

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Do you have a ministry? How do you define “ministry”? Given that definition, what is your ministry? Have you ever regarded your life as a ministry? Does Romans 12: 1-2 have anything to do with offering our lives up as a ministry to God?**
- 2. Usually we think of evangelistic work as proclaiming or teaching the Gospel of Christ to others without making much of a distinction as to who these “others” are. Have you ever thought about asking God to bring you into contact with those who are actually “seeking” Him? Do you believe that everyone who seeks God knows they are seeking God? Can you think of people who may fit this category?**
- 3. How much of the three aspects of Jesus' ministry can be carried out by His current disciples? Can you at some level teach and even preach to others concerning the Gospel of Christ? Do you believe we should seek to minister healing to those in need? How does James 5: 13-18 fit in with this? Do you believe that God both can and will heal today? If you believe the latter do you ever expect to see it?! What does faith have to do with the possibility of healing. Can you think of one time when even Jesus found it very difficult to manifest God's power? (hint: Matt. 13: 58)**
- 4. Have you ever had a problem with allowing your passion to protect your developed theological views from discerning theological truth? What does this mean? How can we defend the truth and seek the truth at the same time?**