

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew

Week 6 ~ Exploring Chapter 4:17-25

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Read Matthew 3:16-4:25 through in one setting if possible to get a feel for the context of 4:17-25
- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook with the title: Chapter 4:17-25
- Re-Read Matthew Chapter 4:17-25 through at least twice and then record your answers to the following questions in your Matthew notebook
 - Do the words of 4:17 sound familiar? Where have you heard them before?
 - How is this significant to Matthew's message?
 - Why are we called to repent?
 - Does our repentance bring about the coming of the kingdom? Explain.
- Re-Read Matthew 4:18-22 and then answer the following questions in your notebook
 - Did Simon and Andrew seek Jesus or did Jesus seek them?
 - Is this distinction important? Why or Why not?
 - Using a Bible dictionary see what you can discover about the Sea of Galilee and commercial fishing in the 1st century. In your notebook summarize what you discover and then reflect on how the information helps you better understand the meaning of this passage.
- Re-Read Matthew 4:23 and then answer the following questions in your Matthew notebook.
 - Using the maps in the back of your Bible, a Bible Atlas, or Bible Dictionary list the names of the towns and villages that Jesus may have passed through as he traveled in the region known as the Galilee.
 - Using your Bible dictionary see what you can learn about 1st century Jewish synagogues as well as diseases and sicknesses common in Jesus' time. Summarize your findings in your notebook.
 - Using the Bible maps you used earlier, try and estimate the number of miles Jesus may have traveled in his early ministry
- Have you discovered anything about Jesus' early ministry that could help you as you deal with the various aspects of your own life in the 21st century? If so, write a few paragraphs in your notebook reflecting on what you have discovered.
- The passage you have been studying this week is the opening section of the 2nd major division of Matthews Gospel 4:17-16:20. In preparation for our upcoming studies of this section, take time this week to read Matthew 4:17 through 7:29. If possible, read it through in one setting.
 - As you note the progression of the material presented. Also, note the differences between chapters 5, 6, & 7. If time allows try to outline Jesus Sermon in your notebook.