

The Marvelous Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 4: 23-25

Our text today is dealing with the early ministry of Jesus. He had just come out of the wilderness after being tempted 40 days of Satan. He had begun to call His disciples and immediately begins to minister unto the people. Throughout His ministry He never deviates from what we see in these verses. He came to seek and to save the lost.

Jesus still ministers to men the same way today. I remember well the day He came to me through the Spirit, revealing my need, saving my soul, and setting me free from the bondage of sin. This morning I want us to look at what the ministry of Jesus involves. I would encourage you to search your heart and allow Jesus to minister to you today. Let's take a few moments to consider the [details](#) of that day as we think on: [The Marvelous Ministry of Jesus](#).

I. The Manner of Jesus (23) – [And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people](#). Who was it that Jesus came to minister to? What type of people was He concerned with? Our text reveals those to whom Jesus came. In fact, He is still seeking these today. Notice:

A. He Came to the Religious – [And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues](#). Many times in the Gospels Jesus is found teaching in the synagogues. These were places that people gathered to worship, much like we are today. The Jews, especially the Pharisees, took pride in their religious ceremonies and observation of the law. They lived a very strict lifestyle and were faithful to the synagogue. I think it would be safe to say that they were more faithful than most of our day.

- So, why is Jesus often found in the synagogues; they were religious people? Simply because an act of worship or mere religion cannot save. These were faithful in attendance, adhering to the law, and keeping the traditions of the feasts. To look at them they appeared to be doing well, but they needed to accept Christ. All of their works weren't enough to save.
- Jesus still comes to religious people. There are many who are faithful to attend church. They may even read their Bible and pray. They may have been baptized and joined the church. These are all good, but they cannot and do not save men's souls. If religious activity is all you have, you don't have much. You need more than religion. You need a personal relationship with Jesus! I often wonder how many people sit on church pews every week, thinking they are ready to meet God. If you've never met Christ, you aren't ready to meet God!

B. He Came to the Rebellious – And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom. Jesus also came preaching the Gospel. His preaching wasn't confined to the synagogue. Jesus sought out those who were sinners. He said, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus was often ridiculed because of His association with sinners. He spent much of His time among them.

- Jesus shared the Gospel on the sea shores, mountain sides, in cities and villages, rural areas, by the wells, and market places. He came to those who didn't believe. He is still reaching out to the lost today. If you have never been saved, there is still hope for you. Jesus died for you as well as all men. He gave His life that you might be saved. Jesus loves you and wants you to receive Him so that you can be a part of God's family.

C. He Came to the Rejected – And Jesus went about all Galilee...healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Jesus also came to those who were sick and diseased. Most of the time, these became outcasts. Many viewed them as cursed of God and would have nothing to do with them. Theirs was often a life of loneliness and despair. They had to beg and hope for someone who might show compassion. Jesus didn't shy away or reject them; He came unto them.

- He still comes to those who are rejected. He still has compassion for those who seem forgotten, for those that no one seems to care. You may feel as if life is hopeless, that no one cares for you. Let me encourage you today, Jesus loves you. He can meet whatever need you have. There isn't a life so troubled that Jesus can't touch. He has come today, reaching out to you, if you'll only trust Him!

II. The Message of Jesus (23) – Jesus is found teaching and preaching everywhere He goes. So what is it that He is teaching? What message does He share with those who will hear? It was a message that all needed to hear. It remains the most important message ever told. His was:

A. A Message of Revelation – And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. It wasn't a coincidence that Jesus taught in the synagogues. Remember these were religious people; they were seeking the Messiah. For thousands of years the Jews had looked for the Son of God to come to earth. Jesus came with the message that He was the Messiah. He was the One they had longed to see. God had fulfilled His promise in the coming of His only begotten Son. Jesus wanted the people to see Him and accept Him as Christ.

- This message of revelation is still being taught today. We are blessed to live on this side of Calvary in the day of grace. Jesus has come! He has already paid the debt of sin we owed. He became our sacrifice upon the cross. It was there He bore the judgment of God for the sin of the whole world, yours and mine.
- You must see Jesus for who He is before you can receive salvation. Every soul must decide what to do with Jesus. You must recognize the Son of God died for your sin. He is the only way to life eternal. There is no other way of forgiveness and acceptance to God. All of your good deeds will never be enough. Jesus must be the Savior of your soul.

B. A Message of Repentance – [And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.](#) As Jesus preached the Gospel, He had a constant theme, [Repent, V.17.](#) Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a religious ruler, but that alone couldn't achieve his salvation. Jesus said, ["Ye must be born again."](#)

- Recognizing that Jesus is Lord is the first step, but we must also recognize that we are a sinner. [Rom.3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.](#) The fact is: we were all born in sin, separated from God. Without Christ you will die lost and spend eternity in hell. You must admit that you are a sinner and repent of your sin. This isn't hard to do, simply confess to God that you are lost, admit your sin, seek His forgiveness, and receive Christ as your Savior. That is what it takes to be saved. Salvation requires repentance. If there's no repentance, there's no salvation!

C. A Message of Redemption – [And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.](#) Jesus preached the Gospel and healed the sick. In this we see a beautiful picture of redemption. Many times as He healed someone He said, ["Thy sins be forgiven thee."](#) They had come in faith and Jesus forgave their sin.

- He doesn't want you to die lost and go to hell. He gave His life so you wouldn't have to. Jesus promises redemption to all who believe. [John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.](#) If you've never been saved you can be. Jesus has promised to make you a child of God if you'll only come to Him by faith. You'll never be the same. Salvation is eternal! Redemption can be found for those who respond to the invitation of Christ to come!

III. The Mercy of Jesus (24) – *And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.* For those who had an encounter with Jesus, they were never the same. He showed compassion, touching their lives. Jesus wants to extend His mercy to you today. Let me share with you what Jesus will bring to your life if you'll only let Him.

A. He Brings Healing – *and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments.* People from all around Galilee were bringing the sick to Jesus. They were sick from *divers* (various) diseases. Each one that got to Jesus was made whole, their sickness was healed.

- I am certain with a crowd this large that there are some needs of healing today. You may need salvation, healing from sin. You may need encouragement, healing from a broken heart. You may need to find forgiveness and joy, healing from a bitter spirit. No doubt the needs are different, but Jesus can provide healing for all. He is right for whatever's wrong!

B. He Brings Hope – *and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.* There were those possessed with devils and sick of the palsy. They were hopeless in themselves. In fact, each of these was hopeless apart from Jesus. They could do nothing about their condition and we can't either.

- You may feel that your life is out of control and there is no hope for you. Jesus can set you free. He can bring hope to your life once again. You can live with hope for tomorrow, not burdened with cares. Jesus can provide the life you desire. There is hope for all who come to Him!

C. He Brings Peace – *and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments...and those which were lunatick...and he healed them.* There were those who were *tormented*. This has the idea of *going to the bottom, hitting rock bottom*. There were also *lunatics, those who had lost their minds*. Jesus brought peace to these troubled lives. Those on the bottom found a reason to live another day. Those whose minds were devastated by sin and cares of life found inner peace.

- Listen, this world can't offer that type of peace. It is only found in Jesus. If you are seeking peace and contentment, Jesus can provide that today!

Conclusion: I truly believe there are real needs within our congregation this morning. If you are not saved, you can be. All you have to do is recognize Jesus, confess your sin, and come to Him by faith. He came to seek and to save the lost, and that includes you. Being faithful to church and religious activities are good, but they alone will never save.

Christian maybe you need a touch from the Great Physician. Maybe you are dealing with adversity and pain, you are facing inner turmoil. Whatever the need, I'd come right now. Don't wait another minute, your eternity may rest on this decision! Come while the Spirit is pleading.