

Book Study – Matthew 4:18-25

The Calling of the First Disciples and Jesus Heals the Sick

Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. What kind of leader do you prefer to follow?
2. What are some examples of well-functioning teams?
3. If you could find the cure to any one disease, what illness would it be and why?

Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

4. What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus approached them? (4:18)
5. What exactly did Jesus say to Simon and Andrew? (4:19)
6. What did Jesus do when He saw the two brothers, James and John? (4:21)
7. Where did the incidents in this passage take place? (4:23)
8. What did Jesus do at the synagogues of this region? (4:23)
9. How did the masses react to the news of what Jesus was doing? (4:24)
10. What did Jesus do for the suffering individuals who came to Him? (4:24)
11. Jesus' audience grew to include people from what surrounding regions and cities? (4:25)

Sort it Out, Organize It, Gain Some Understanding...

12. How risky was it for Peter, Andrew, James, and John to drop everything to go with Jesus?
13. How do you think you might have responded had you been fishing with these men and heard Jesus direct this challenge to you?
14. What possessions, goals, dreams, or relationships are keeping you from following Jesus wholeheartedly today?
15. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?
16. What assorted reactions do people have to life-threatening illnesses?
17. How might God use sickness, pain, or difficulty to bring about good in a person's life?
18. Why is it significant that Jesus was able to heal all the ailments people brought to Him?

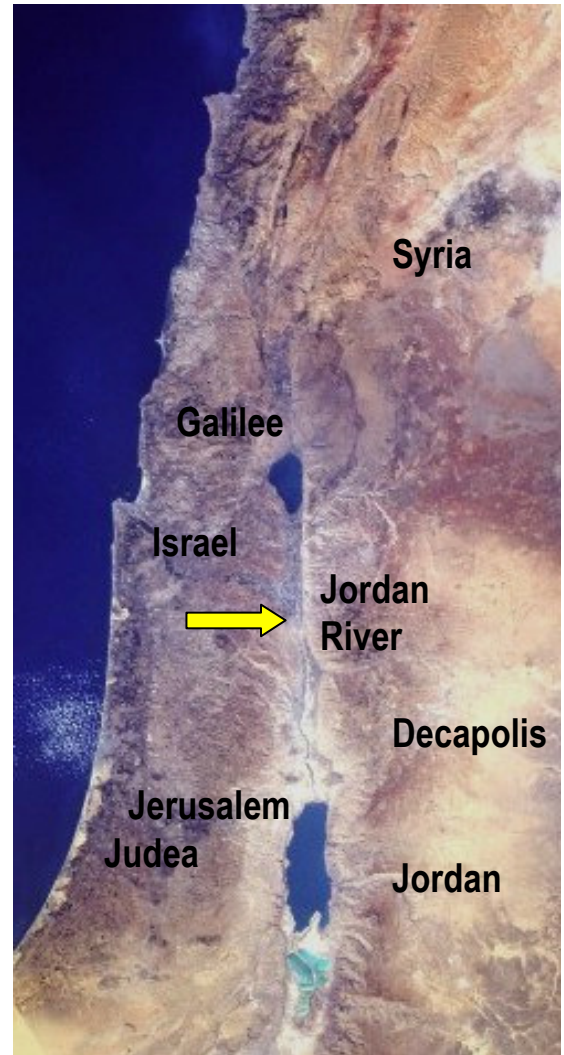
Application for the Journey...

19. What can you do or stop doing today in order to become a more expert "fisher of men"?
20. What can you do today to encourage someone who is ill?
21. What realistic step can you take this week to share the good news of Christ with a non-Christian friend?

A prayer for your journey...

"Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life." -Amen

*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 1 Jordan River: from the Sea Of Galilee to the Dead Sea



Matthew 4:25 And there followed him great multitudes from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judaea and from beyond the Jordan.

I find no information re: “beyond the Jordan” as a specific geographical location. Does it refer to Jordan and beyond (east of the river) or is it referring to the area farther south of the Jordan River...or ???



“We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said,
I will give it to you: come with us, and we will do you good...”

-- Numbers 10:29

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Something to think about re: Jesus ability and relationship as a human with God His Father and our relationship as a human with God our Father.”** (Please take this for what it is... -Les)

Quotations from The Shack (a novel) by Wm P. Young Pages 99-100

Note: Parenthesis, underline, and ellipsis are mine -Les

God (Papa) is speaking...

“...We (God/Trinity) created you to share in that (perfect creation). But then Adam chose to go it on his own, as we knew he would, and everything got messed up. But instead of scrapping the whole Creation we rolled up our sleeves and entered into the middle of the mess—that’s what we have done in Jesus...

... “When we three spoke ourself into human existence as the Son of God, we became fully human. We also chose to embrace all the limitations that this entailed. Even though we have always been present in this created universe, we now became flesh and blood. It would be like this bird, whose nature it is to fly, choosing only to walk and remain grounded. He doesn’t stop being the bird, but it does alter his experience of life significantly:’ ...

... “Although by nature he is fully God, Jesus is fully human and lives as such. While never losing the innate ability to fly, he chooses moment-by-moment to remain grounded. That is why his name is Immanuel, God with us, or God with you, to be more precise:’

(Mac) “But what about all the miracles? The healings? Raising people from the dead? Doesn’t that prove that Jesus was God—you know, more than human?”

“No, it proves that Jesus is truly human:”

(Mac) “What?”

“Mackenzie, I can fly, but humans can’t. Jesus is fully human. Although he is also fully God, he has never drawn upon his nature as God to do anything. He has only lived out of his relationship with me, living in the very same manner that I desire to be in relationship with every human being. He is just the first to do it to the uttermost—the first to absolutely trust my life within him, the first to believe in my love and my goodness without regard for appearance or consequence:’

(Mac) “So, when he healed the blind?”

“He did so as a dependent, limited human being trusting in my life and power to be at work within him and through him. Jesus, as a human being, had no power within himself to heal anyone:’

That came as a shock to Mack’s religious system.

“Only as he rested in his relationship with me, and in our communion—our co-union—could he express my heart and will into any given circumstance. So, when you look at Jesus and it appears that he’s flying, he really is... flying. But what you are actually seeing is me; my life in him. That’s how he lives and acts as a true human, how every human is designed to live—out of my life.

“A bird’s not defined by being grounded but by his ability to fly. Remember this, humans are not defined by their limitations, but by the intentions that I have for them; not by what they seem to be, but by everything it means to be created in my image:’