

Lesson III. THE BEGINNING OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY January 16, 1910

Matthew 4 : 12-25—Memory Verse, 23.

Golden Text—The people which sat in darkness saw great light.—Matthew 4 : 16.

12 Now when Je'sus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Gal'ilee ;

13 And leaving Naz'areth, he came and dwelt in Caper'naum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabu'lon and Neph'thalim :

14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esai'as the prophet, saying,

15 The land of Zabu'lon, and the land of Neph'thalim, *by the way of the sea, beyond Jor'dan, Gal'ilee of the Gen'tiles ;*

16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light ; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

17 From that time Je'sus began to preach, and to say, Repent : for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

18 And Je'sus, walking by the sea of Gal'ilee, saw two brethren, Si'mon called Pe'ter, and An'drew his brother, casting a net into the sea : for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James *the son of* Zeb'edee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets ; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

23 And Je'sus went about all Gal'ilee, 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.

24 And his fame went throughout all Syr'ia : 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.

25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Gal'ilee, and from Decap'olis, and from Jeru'salem, and from Jude'a, and from beyond Jor'dan.

THE LESSON RETOLD

John the Baptist still went on preaching in the wilderness, and amongst those whom he reproved for their sins was the wicked ruler Herod, and his wife Herodias, who was very wicked too. Herodias was angry with John, and persuaded Herod to have him put in prison.

Not long after Jesus' baptism, He heard how Herod had cast John into prison, so Jesus left the part of the country where Herod was, and went to live in Capernaum, a town on the Sea of Galilee. Now the prophet Isaiah, long before, had said that the people living in the country round about Capernaum would one day see a great light. This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus came thither. He began there His work of preaching, and called on people to repent of their sins, because the

kingdom of heaven was now close at hand. Jesus Himself was the Ruler of this kingdom, and He wished everybody to belong to it.

As Jesus was walking one day by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea. And Jesus called to these two men and said, "If you will follow Me, I will make you fishers of men instead of fish." And the men immediately left their nets, and followed Jesus. They were His first disciples.

And again Jesus saw two other fishermen, James and John, who were with their father Zebedee in a ship mending their nets, and they too, when they were called to be Jesus' disciples, left all that they had and followed Him. And Jesus went through all the coun-