

LESSON 4

FROM THE FIRST PASSOVER TO THE SECOND, PART 2

THE SHIFT FROM JUDEA TO GALILEE

(MT. 4:12; MK. 1:14; LK. 3:19; JN. 4:1–45)

Jesus and His disciples had been enjoying success in Judea—teaching and baptizing even more than John the Baptizer (Jn. 3:22, 26; 4:1) At the height of this success, Christ decided that it was time to leave Judea and go back to Galilee. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 139–145.]

1. Why did Jesus move His ministry from Judea, the heart of Judaism at that time, to Galilee?
2. Why did Jesus “ha[ve] to pass through Samaria” (Jn. 4:4)?

A GENERAL ACCOUNT OF JESUS’ TEACHING IN GALILEE (MT. 4:17; MK. 1:14, 15; LK. 4:14, 15)

Jesus began to preach in Galilee as He had in Judea. The synagogues provided Him with a pulpit and an audience. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 145–146.]

3. Why did Jesus direct people to repent and *then* to believe, rather than the other way around?
4. Why was the synagogue an ideal place for Jesus to preach?

THE SECOND MIRACLE AT CANA (JN. 4:46–54)

Jesus began to perform miracles in Galilee as He had in Judea. For some reason, He made another visit to Cana. In nearby Capernaum, a royal official hurried to ask Him to heal his son. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 146–147.]

5. Was Jesus’ response to the official a personal rebuke? Explain.
6. What other miracles did Jesus perform at a distance, as He did this one?

THE CALL OF FOUR FISHERMEN
(MT. 4:18–22; MK. 1:16–20; LK. 5:1–11)

One of Jesus' first acts in Galilee was to establish Capernaum as His base of operations. Almost everything was in place for Jesus to begin an aggressive campaign in Galilee. He needed one more component: full-time disciples. Matthew 4, Mark 1, and Luke 5 tell of the call of four fishermen: Peter, James, John, and Andrew. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 148–152.]

7. What were the three stages in Jesus' call to discipleship?
8. What details indicate that these three narratives describe the same event?
9. What must take place in our lives for us to be disciples of Christ as these fishermen were?

IN CAPERNAUM
(MT. 8:14–17; MK. 1:21–34; LK. 4:31–41)

These passages cover Jesus' first tour of Galilee, plus some events in Capernaum before and after the tour. The incidents help to put the "great" in "The Great Galilean Ministry." [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 159–164.]

10. How did Jesus' teaching in the synagogue differ from the services that regularly went on there?
11. What do these verses reveal about demons and demon-possession?
12. Why did Jesus not allow the unclean spirits to tell who He was?

IN GALILEE
(MT. 4:23–25; 8:2–4; MK. 1:35–45; LK. 4:42–44; 5:12–16)

The disciples were excited that Jesus had been such a success in Capernaum, but Jesus' vision was greater than one city. He outlined His plan to preach to every town in Galilee (Mk. 1:38). One miracle on the preaching tour in Galilee is recorded in detail: the healing of a leper. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 165–168.]

13. What do we know about the leprosy of Bible times?
14. Why did Christ warn the healed leper not to tell anyone what He had done?
15. What happened as a result of the former leper's ignoring this warning?

**BACK AT CAPERNAUM:
HEALING A PARALYTIC
(MT. 9:2–8; MK. 2:1–12; LK. 5:17–26)**

At the close of the trip, Jesus returned to Capernaum—probably to Peter’s house—to recuperate. He did not get much rest, however, for word quickly spread that He was back in town. The house where He was staying was soon packed with people. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 169–172.]

16. Who had gathered to hear Jesus?
17. What was the fallacy in the logic of those who accused Jesus of blasphemy?
18. What result did this misunderstanding of Christ’s authority have for His ministry?

**NEAR CAPERNAUM: THE CALL OF MATTHEW
(MT. 9:9; MK. 2:13, 14; LK. 5:27, 28)**

Jesus had done several things to make His critics unhappy: He had touched an unclean leper. He had indicated that He could forgive sin. One more incident incited their anger: He called a tax collector to be one of His disciples. [See *Life of Christ, 1*, pp. 172–174.]

19. What standing did tax collectors have in Jewish society?
20. What did Matthew’s decision to follow Jesus cost him?