

**Text: Mark 1; Matthew 4; Luke 4**

**Subject: "FAITH"**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Comprehension of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ

a) Location

Galilee of the Gentiles

Matthew 4:14-16

i) There were many Gentiles

ii) There were more Gentiles than Jews

iii) Rome ruled Judea/Galilee

b) Cities mentioned in the Gospels

i) Nazareth

Northern part of Galilee

ii) Capernaum

32.4 km from Nazareth

iii) Bethsaida

About 9.5 km from Capernaum

c) Reasons:

i) In fulfilment of a prophecy in Isaiah

ii) To bring light to a land full of darkness

iii) To bring light/life to a region in the shadow of death  
Isaiah 9:1-2

2. The Challenges that the Lord Jesus had to face

a) Hostility faced in Nazareth

Luke 4:28-29

i) They did not like what the Lord Jesus taught

ii) They wanted to throw Him off a cliff

b) Many were not well-educated

i) Nazareth was not well-esteemed

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

John 1:46

ii) Galilee was generally not well-regarded  
“Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?” Acts 2:7

c) The spiritual state of the land was one that may be described as “darkness”

## **COMMENCEMENT OF THE EARTHLY MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS**

### 1. The Endorsement of God, the Father

a) The heavens were opened, and God’s voice was heard  
Matthew 3:16

b) God’s declaration  
“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” Matthew 3:17

### 2. The Empowering of the Holy Spirit

a) He came upon the Lord Jesus as a dove Matthew 3:16

b) The Lord Jesus was led by the Spirit Matthew 4:1

c) He was filled by the Spirit of God Luke 4:1

d) He was tempted by the Devil (40 days/nights) Luke 4:1-13

e) He returned in the power of the Spirit Luke 4:14

## **CALLING OF PEOPLE TO REPENT AND BELIEVE**

### 1. A Message of Repentance I (John the Baptist)

a) Proclaimed by John the Baptist (Mark 1; Matthew 3; Luke 3; John 1)

b) Repentance

i) From sin

ii) To be evidenced by the fruit of repentance

iii) Preparation for the arrival of the King

### 2. A Message of Repentance II (The Lord Jesus Christ)

a) The time is fulfilled Mark 1:15a

i) The prophecy concerning the Coming of the Messiah

ii) The prophecy of John the Baptist

iii) That time has now arrived

iv) The Lord Jesus had come

b) Repent

Mark 1:15b

i) Recognition of sin

ii) Recognition of the Saviour

iii) Returning to God humbly, seeking forgiveness and salvation

c) Believe in the Gospel

Mark 1:15

i) Believe means "To have faith"

ii) Same word in the Greek

iii) Different words in English  
(Believe ... Faith)

### **PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE GOSPELS ABOUT FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

1. The word "believe" was used repeatedly in the Gospel of John

a) To highlight its place

b) To encourage people to find faith

c) To demonstrate the blessings that attend those who have faith

2. Many problems were highlighted:

a) No faith

b) Little faith

c) Hypocrisy

d) Hardened heart

e) Ignorance

f) Presumption

g) Rejection

h) Spiritual blindness

## **TEACHING ABOUT HOW WE CAN FIND FAITH**

### 1. The Lord Jesus taught His Disciples

a) How to find faith

b) How to utilize faith

c) How to grow their faith

### 2. Assessment of the state of faith

a) Rebuke of the Lord Jesus

“O you of little faith”

Matthew 6:30

b) Context

i) Worldly pursuits

Matthew 6:19-21

ii) Worries about life

Matthew 6:25-34

### 3. Our Challenge

a) To candidly assess the state of our faith

b) To desire to find real faith

c) To commit to cultivating our faith

d) To seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness

Matthew 6:33