

§31: EARLY MINISTRY IN GALILEE; ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON

Matt. 4:13–17; Mark 1:14b–15; Lk. 4:14b–15; John 4:43–54 [Matt. 8:5–13; Luke 7:1–10]

Jesus Comes to Galilee

John 4:43–45

43 And after the two days He went forth from there into Galilee.
44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.
45 So when He came into Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all that He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves also went to the feast.

News About Jesus Spreads

Lk. 4:14b

14b And the news about Him went out throughout all the surrounding region.

Healing of Royal Official's Son: The Request

John 4:46–49

Matt. 8:5-9

Luke 7:1-8

<p>46 He came therefore again to Cana of Galilee, where He made the water wine. And there was a certain royal official, whose son was sick at Capernaum.</p> <p>47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was requesting that He should come down and heal his son, for he was about to die.</p>	<p>5 And when He had entered Capernaum, a centurion</p> <p>came to Him, appealing to Him 6 and saying:</p> <p>Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, terribly tormented.</p>	<p>1 When He had finished all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum.</p> <p>2 And a certain centurion's slave, who was valuable to him, was sick and about to die.</p> <p>3 And when he heard about Jesus, he sent to Him elders of the Jews asking Him to come and save his slave.</p>
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Healing of Royal Official's Son: The Response

<p>48 Jesus therefore said to him: Unless you <i>people</i> see signs and wonders, you will in no way believe.</p> <p>49 The royal official said to Him: Lord [or, Sir], come down before my child dies.</p>	<p>7 And He said to him: I will come and heal him.</p>	<p>4 And when they had come to Jesus, they appealed to Him earnestly, saying: He is worthy for You to grant this thing to him.</p> <p>5 For he loves our nation, and it is he who built the synagogue for us.</p> <p>6 And Jesus was going with them;</p>
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	<p>8 And the centurion answered and said: Lord, I am not fit for You to come under my roof;</p> <p>but only speak (with) a word, and my servant will be healed.</p> <p>9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this one: Go!, and he goes, and to another: Come!, and he comes, and to my slave: Do this!, and he does.</p> <p>10 And when Jesus heard, He was amazed and said to those who were following: Truly, I say to you, with no one have I found such faith in Israel.</p> <p>11 But I say to you that many will come from east and west and will recline <i>at table</i> with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;</p> <p>12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.</p>	<p>but when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him: Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not fit for You to come under my roof.</p> <p>7 Therefore I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but speak (with) a word, and let my servant be healed.</p> <p>8 For I also am a man set under authority, having soldiers under me; and I say to this one: Go!, and he goes, and to another: Come!, and he comes, and to my slave: Do this!, and he does.</p> <p>9 And when Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that was following Him, He said: I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith</p>
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Healing of Royal Official's Son: The Fulfillment

John 4:50–54

Matt. 8:10–13

Luke 7:9–10

<p>50 Jesus said to him: Go, your son lives. The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he was going.</p> <p>51 But already as he was going down, his slaves met him, saying</p> <p>that his boy <i>was</i> living. So he inquired of them the hour in which he began to improve. They said therefore to him: Yesterday at the seventh hour</p>	<p>13 And Jesus said to the centurion: Go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.</p> <p>And the servant was healed in that hour.</p>	<p>10 And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.</p>
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<p>the fever left him.</p> <p>53 So the father knew that <i>it was</i> in that hour in which Jesus said to him: Your son lives; and he himself believed, and his whole household.</p> <p>54 This is again a second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.</p>		
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Jesus Leaves Nazareth and Settles in Capernaum

Mt. 4:13–16

<p>13 And having left Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,</p> <p>14 that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying:</p> <p>15 Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles;</p> <p>16 The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and to those sitting in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned upon them.</p>
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What Jesus was Preaching

Matt. 4:17

Mark 1:14b–15

<p>17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say:</p> <p>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.</p>	<p>14b preaching the gospel of God and saying:</p> <p>The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe in the gospel.</p>
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Where Jesus was Preaching

Lk. 4:15

<p>15 And He was teaching in their synagogues, being praised by all.</p>

Notes

1. Aland's *Synopsis* places the healing of the royal official's son parallel to the healing of the centurion's slave in Matt. 8:5–13 and Luke 7:1–10 at a later time. Although there are some striking similarities, there are also significant differences between John's account of the official and the account of the centurion in Matt. and Luke. I decided to deviate from Aland and include the account of the official here, which is more in harmony with John 4:54, but include the account of the centurion's slave so that the similarities and differences can be clearly seen.
2. The chronology of this section is not entirely clear. According to the above arrangement, Jesus left Samaria and came first to Cana of Galilee. Apparently from there he went back to Nazareth, so that Matthew says in 4:13 that he then left Nazareth and went to Capernaum. Jesus then traveled about Galilee "teaching in their synagogues" (Lk. 4:15). §33 deals with Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth.

3. Note the plural “you” in John 4:48.
4. **Synagogues (Lk. 4:15).** The word is borrowed directly from the Greek and means “gathering” or “assembly”. It can refer either to the people assembled or the place where they are assembled. The origin of the synagogue is not known. Many theories exist, perhaps the most popular being that they arose in Babylon during the exile. But the earliest direct evidence we have of the existence of synagogues through either written documents or archaeological finds is the New Testament itself, in which the term synagogue occurs some 56 times, the existence of synagogues being taken for granted. Buildings identified as synagogues by archaeologists date back to around the 3rd century A.D. at the earliest. Earlier structures, such as at Masada, which are generally asserted by modern tour guides to have been synagogues in the 1st century, cannot definitely be shown to have been synagogues.
5. *Description of Synagogues in the N.T.*
 - a. Religious Activities (generally on the Sabbath).
 - 1) Teaching: Mt. 4:23; 9:35; 13:54; Mk. 1:21; 6:2; Lk. 4:15ff.; 6:6; 13:10; Jn. 6:59; 18:20.
 - 2) Preaching: Mk. 1:39; Lk. 4:21ff.; 4:44; Acts 9:20; 13:5,14; 14:1; 17:1ff; 17:10ff.
 - 3) “Word of Exhortation”: Acts 13:15.
 - 4) Reasoning, speaking out boldly, persuading: Acts 17:17; 18:4,19,26; 19:8.
 - 5) Praying: Mt. 6:5.
 - 6) Reading of the Law and the Prophets: Lk. 4:16ff; Acts 13:15; 15:21.
 - 7) Giving of alms: Mt. 6:2.
 - 8) “Sounding of the trumpet”: Mt. 6:2 (perhaps only figurative for drawing attention one oneself?)
 - b. Civil Activities.
 - 1) Scourgings and beatings: Mt. 10:17; 23:34; Mk. 13:9; Lk. 12:11; 21:12; Acts 9:2; 22:19; 26:11.
 - 2) The synagogues seemed to have been used as local courts with jurisdiction over the people of the community. In several passages courts and prisons are mentioned as distinct from the synagogues.
 - c. Jesus healed there.
Mt. 12:9; Mk. 1:21ff; 1:39; 3:1; Lk. 4:33ff; 6:6ff.
 - d. Building and financing.
Lk. 7:5.
 - e. Officials.
 - 1) Attendant: Lk. 4:20.
 - 2) Rulers/Leaders: Mk. 5:22,35,36,38; Lk. 8:41,49; 13:14; Acts 13:15; 18:8,17.
 - f. Furniture.
 - 1) Chief/Front seats: Mt. 23:6; Mk. 12:39; Lk. 11:43; 20:46.
 - 2) “A good place”: James 2:2.
 - 3) Footstool: James 2:2.
 - g. Dress.
James 2:2
 - h. Various kinds of synagogues.
Acts 6:9
 - i. “Synagogue of Satan”
Rev. 2:9; 3:9.