

Matthew 4:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

Analysis

The phrase 'Jesus heard that John was cast into prison' likely served as God's providential signal that Christ's public ministry should begin. John's imprisonment by Herod Antipas for condemning his unlawful marriage demonstrated the cost of faithful proclamation and foreshadowed Christ's own rejection. Jesus' departure to Galilee was strategic, not fearful—beginning ministry in the region prophesied by Isaiah.

Historical Context

John was imprisoned by Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great) around AD 28-29 for condemning Herod's marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. John was later beheaded at Herodias' instigation (Matthew 14:1-12). Herod Antipas ruled Galilee and Perea.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does John's imprisonment for faithful preaching teach about the cost of prophetic ministry?
2. How does Christ's response to John's imprisonment demonstrate trust in God's sovereign timing rather than fear-driven reaction?

Interlinear Text

Ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη
had heard **Now** ^{G3588} **when Jesus** **that** **John** **was cast into prison**
G191 G1161 G2424 G3754 G2491 G3860

ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν
he departed **into** ^{G3588} **Galilee**
G402 G1519 G1056

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:14 (References Jesus): Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Luke 3:20 (References John): Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

Matthew 14:3 (References John): For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Mark 6:17 (References John): For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.

John 3:24 (References John): For John was not yet cast into prison.

Luke 4:14 (References Jesus): And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.