

Matthew 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

After John's imprisonment, Jesus begins preaching the identical message: 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' This continuity shows Jesus fulfills John's preparatory ministry. However, Jesus as King proclaims the kingdom's arrival with greater authority. 'From that time' marks the formal beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry, demonstrating God's sovereign timing despite opposition.

Historical Context

Jesus' ministry began in Galilee, not Jerusalem—significant because Galilee was considered backward by Judean standards. This fulfills Isaiah 9:1-2 about light shining in 'Galilee of the Gentiles.' John's imprisonment occurred around 28 AD after about 18 months of ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus taking up John's message challenge you about faithfulness despite opposition?

2. What does it mean for you today that the kingdom of heaven is 'at hand'?

Interlinear Text

Ἄπο τότε ἥρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν
From that time began Jesus to preach and to say
G575 G5119 G756 G3588 G2424 G2784 G2532 G3004

Μετανοεῖτε· ἥγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν
Repent is at hand for the kingdom of heaven
G3340 G1448 G1063 G3588 G932 G3588 G3772

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 3:2 (Kingdom): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Acts 2:38 (Repentance): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Luke 5:32 (Repentance): I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 24:47 (Repentance): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 17:30 (Repentance): And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Matthew 9:13 (Repentance): But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Acts 26:20 (Repentance): But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Luke 15:7 (Repentance): I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Acts 3:19 (Repentance): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Luke 15:10 (Repentance): Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

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