



**SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus**

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**Tuesday, 11/09/21**

**Scripture: Matthew 4:23-25**

**TITLE: News Worth Going Viral**

What's the last thing that you saw go viral? When I say viral, I mean something that spreads everywhere as fast as possible! Maybe it was the latest dance on Tik-Tok, maybe it was a piece of news off of Twitter. We live in a day and an age where news spreads quickly, we have access to information at the tips of our fingers, and ideas can spread rapidly from person to person.

Today I want us to look in Matthew 4 to examine the beginning of Jesus' ministry on Earth. What you will find is that Jesus and His fame and His message went viral pretty quickly.

Today we will read Matthew 4:23-25. This is coming right after Jesus has overcome all the temptations from Satan in the wilderness and called a number of disciples to follow Him. It seems as if Jesus has passed the test, gathered His men, and is now set out on His mission. Matthew 4:23-25 (ESV) says:

"And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan."

We see right off the bat that Jesus begins to go and proclaim the Gospel, which means “good news,” of His Kingdom. As He does this, He also heals many people, and we are told that His fame spreads quickly, and by the end of this passage, great crowds have begun to follow Him. In other words, Jesus has gone viral! That's amazing! When we think about the fact that they didn't have cell phones, or social media, or even newspapers, the fact that someone's message and fame spread quickly tells you He must have been a very big deal. Everyone must be talking about him! But what is it that they're talking about?

Again, in verse 23 we see that He starts proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom. This means Jesus is trying to tell people there is a better way. He begins to tell them about God's Kingdom, authority, and way of doing things. Jesus' mission was to reveal who God is and what He's like here on Earth. Ultimately, Jesus came to share the good news that there's the hope of something greater in this life on Earth; there is a bigger picture!

He doesn't just tell people about the Kingdom, but He begins to show it as He goes around healing every disease and affliction. This shows us the power and the authority of Jesus that He can heal! We also see Jesus' heart in the fact that He has a desire to heal those who are sick and afflicted. This is a picture of his Kingdom! In God's Kingdom, there is no sickness; there is no affliction. This is what Jesus does! He came to fix what was broken by our sin. This is an actual picture of Jesus reversing the curse of sin in this world.

Maybe you read passages like this and begin to wonder why does Jesus still allow pain and sickness in the world when He has the power to heal it? I can't answer every question, but I know this even though Jesus healed many people in His ministry on Earth, He didn't heal every sickness and everything on the planet when He was here. That's because healing physical sicknesses was not His purpose; He came to proclaim the good news of the Gospel, that He would provide a way to defeat a sickness called sin, to be taken away forever!

Lastly, we see that crowds of people are drawn into Jesus. But we have to ask, are they drawn to Jesus because of who He is or what they believe He can do for them? We have to ask ourselves the same question, do we come to Jesus only wanting Him to solve all of our problems, or do we truly seek a relationship with Him?

The Bible makes it clear that we should pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ first and trust in Him, then we can look forward to the hope of the future with Him in His perfect Kingdom forever. That's good news! That's a Gospel worth proclaiming! That is news that's worth going viral.