



THE MINISTRY OF JESUS*

**On a mission to change the world.*

Questions for Application for the Week of November 4, 2013 Part 1 - His Message: Repentance - Matthew 4:12-17

1. Rather than cause him to shrink back, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested he moved to Capernaum and began preaching a message of repentance (Mt. 4:12). In what ways do you need to be more intentional with your Christian walk? Do you have any spiritual “goals” and what will be the “trigger” that moves you to action?

2. John the Baptist was the forerunner not only to Jesus’ ministry but also to his suffering. Read Matthew 14:1-12. In what ways does John’s life and death stand in contrast to your own goals and aspirations and how might it challenge what we expect “should” happen to “faithful” people?

3. Jesus did not begin his ministry in Jerusalem, but instead choose Capernaum in “Galilee of the Gentiles” (Mt. 4:15). In what ways does his choice serve as a precursor to his command in Matthew 28:19 and how should it both encourage and challenge you?

4. Matthew tells us that those “dwelling in darkness” see “a light has dawned” on them in Christ (Mt. 4:16). What are some other passages in scripture that use the imagery of “darkness” and “light” and in what ways are they enriched because of your study of Matthew 4:16?

5. Jesus’ message was one of “repentance” (Mt. 4:17). Why can that message elicit such a negative reaction from people? Why is “repentance” often viewed so negatively and almost separately from the “good news” of the gospel? How have you viewed repentance in your own life and how might you need to adjust your estimation of it?