

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

We have reason to believe that the earthly ministry of the LORD JESUS covered approximately three years from the time of HIS baptism by John in the River Jordan; until HIS appointed death upon Calvary's mount. In one sense of the word HE began HIS ministry at the point of HIS birth since HE came into the world to fulfill HIS eternal purpose of saving "*HIS people from their sins.*"

HE ministered to those scribes and Pharisees in the Temple, when HE was twelve years old and also to HIS neighbors and acquaintances as HE grew in favor with GOD and man. HIS whole life from its beginning was a testimony of purity, kindness to HIS fellow man, and obedience to HIS heavenly FATHER as well as that of honoring HIS earthly parents. Yet HIS unveiling as the PROPHET of GOD began to be put on display to the world at large, as HE was baptized and shortly thereafter was tempted by Satan without faltering in one jot or tittle.

We see the LORD JESUS' identity as the "ROOT" or "BRANCH" confirmed in the Revelation, "*I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*" HE has indeed come, as that NAZARENE; the CHOSEN ONE of GOD, the FIRST and the LAST. Amen

While HE grew up in Nazareth, we see that at some point HE moved to Capernaum. We are not sure of the exact location of Capernaum except that it was on the northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee. This move was also prophesied by Isaiah and recorded in the NT by Matthew, It was here that the LORD began to openly preach saying, "*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" This is a welcome message to those who have been given ears to hear and a seemingly unbearable demand for those who cannot. Religious men may speak of "repentance" but they usually view it in a moral aspect rather than as CHRIST declared it to be the recognition of the spiritual nature of HIS Kingdom and HIS right to rule and reign in that Kingdom as the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON of GOD. Natural men will recognize and embrace many things about this MAN JESUS, but they will not fall down and worship HIM in SPIRIT and TRUTH, having no capacity to do so.

Much of the LORD's public preaching was done in the province of Galilee, of which Capernaum was a prominent city. It was in Galilee that HE preached what has become to be known as "the sermon on the mount." Once again we see that religiously oriented moralists primarily see HIS declaration as the laying down of moral imperatives and duties, when in reality, HIS purpose was to illustrate the contrast between HIS Kingdom and that of the flesh. It was here, near Capernaum, that HE called Peter, Andrew, James and John as well as Matthew, the tax collector, to become "fishers of men". Little did they know how radically their lives and thinking were going to change, nor might I add, at the time, did they have any understanding of the great privilege that was bestowed upon them by this call. Yet one thing is certain, this MAN from Capernaum would alter their lives forever, and bestow upon them the gift of faith, so that in just a short period of time, their confession of that faith would bind them to HIM like fetters of iron. These were ignorant and uneducated fishermen, yet, in just a few years, men in the seats of power among the Jews would take notice of the fact that they had companied with this NAZARENE. The LORD did many miracles in and around Capernaum. Here HE healed Peter's mother-in-law, the Centurion's servant, a Nobleman's son, the man who was sick of the palsy and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. HE healed and delivered a multitude of others. All of this was done openly in the sight of the citizens of Capernaum. Yet while the evil spirits recognized HIM, the multitude did not believe on HIM nor recognize HIS Kingdom. Thus HE spoke plainly of their destruction, because of their obstinance and rebellion. "*And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.*" We have no clearer illustration of the folly of thinking that because men see and even rejoice in miracles and signs, that by these things they will be caused to believe and embrace CHRIST and HIS Kingdom " Ye must be born again.

"*Thy free grace alone,*" #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at fortheepoor@windstream.net ,**