Epiphany III

Mt 4:12-23 (-25)

Mt. traces the biography of Jesus & he ~~comments~~ comments on that biography. He talks about how Jesus came to settle down in Capernaum. That touches his imagination. Capernaum is one of those places where pilgrim & tourists get to by the thousands every year. Place that captures your imagination. Is the synagogue there the one where Jesus went? — No — But maybe under the present synagogue there is a synagogue where Jesus went & taught. .... Is the house there really Peter's house. .... Is the fishing vessel there really a 1st century fishing vessel, is it one in which Jesus could have entered.

Mt has commented on Bethlehem — on Jerusalem — on Egypt — on Nazareth — & now on Capernaum. What he says is the Capernaum is by the sea — in the territory of Zebulun & Naphtali. Zebulun & Naphtali are territories which the Assyrians conquered & annexed — & Isaiah said that that terrible event will be reversed when the sovereignty of God breaks out in the last times & that territory which was the 1st territory to [illegible] will be the 1st territory

to be liberated. Now as Jesus comes here to settle down (if settle down is the right phrase for "someone who has nowhere to lay His head") - Mt's point is Jesus is making the center of His ministry there by the sea - the prophecy of old & the liberation of the land is now taking place.
— Jesus in the midst of great darkness is coming as a Great Light. He is not only One who has been testified to by a Great Star - but He is Himself the Great Light - shining in the darkness of those who live in darkness & in the shadow of death.
Jesus goes out & He calls 4 fishermen & He says, "Stop fishing for food & I'll make you a fisher of human beings." He goes on from there throughout all of Galilee & His fame goes out (24 & 25) What happens is that a great crowd of people ~~crowd~~ gather around Him - not only there Jewish fishermen but people are coming from as far away as Syria - up over the hill. An international crowd is gathering around Him.
to Him
Mt is preparing us for the 1st major event of Jesus which comes in ch. 5 - the Sermon on the Mt. Mt is laying the groundwork - setting the stage. He is coming

to liberate the people as Great Light
He has founded a new community of
disciples who have gathered around Him.
He comes a Great Power — & He comes
as one who is attractive to both Jew
& Gentile. He is setting the stage for the
1st Great Public action of Jesus in
this Gospel — the Giving of the Sermon on
the Mt.
We ought to read this section as Prologue
— as Prelude to the Sermon on Mt.

Lonely – There isn't one of us here who hasn't known loneliness. Isn't that wonderful? There isn't one who hasn't known despair. There isn't one person who hasn't cried, also there aren't many who haven't laughed – that haven't known joy. We alike. We are all involved in the same struggle – to become fully human. What a goal. Thorough! – to have reached the pit of death only to find that you have never lived at all.

Rapture! Have you ever known rapture? Don't leave life without knowing Rapture. Rick – & like me! you cannot give to anybody in this world what you do not have, and therefore you must concentrate on getting – being the most beautiful, sensitive, magical, unique fantastic person in the world..... & have all these things so & can give them & share them c̄ you.

To
Melvin Galbraith