

Freedom to Be a Disciple
Informal Service

Morning Star Chapel
Sermon By Rev. Calvin Acton Odhner
July 3, 2014

Text: Matthew 4:12-25

Arcana

Quote:

Slide 1 Cover

Slide 2 Recitation

Introduction: FREEDOM

Friday we celebrated the 4th of July...we are celebrating that we live in a free country...that we can worship the way we want to, that we can think the way we want to, that we can go and do what we want.

Let's take a little journey to the far east...(SLIDE 3)I want to show you where the Lord lived and why.....I want to show you why the beginning of the Lord's ministry on earth is so important to us...and as you know everything He did on earth was for us....to help us find our way to heaven to be with Him...if you are feeling lost....

disconnected from the Lord, from your spirituality...if you just can't seem to get your spiritual footing, sometimes it helps to go back to the basics, back to the beginning and re-discover how this all started...how the Lord calls you....just like He called each disciple...He is calling you....and He is asking you to "follow Him" (Matthew 4:19). We read in Matthew: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)

So let's start with where the Lord was born.....we know He was born in (SLIDE 4) Bethlehem...right....Bethlehem means "House of Bread" it pictures a state in which there is hunger for good and a desire for truth....now... which one of us always does the right thing and always wants to obey the truth? None of us...but it pictures the kind of person we can become...we

can learn to hunger for good and desire the truth...And here is Bethlehem today....this is a real city in the far east. But remember Mary and Joseph traveled back to thier home in Nazareth. Let's travel to (Slide 6) Nazareth...where the Lord was raised until He was 30 years old.....you can see we are moving from the south to the north. Again Nazareth is a real city (SLIDE 7). Now when the Lord began is public ministry He left Nazareth....where He knew everybody....where He was raised....where all His friends were...people He worked with. And where did He go? (SLIDE 8) to Capernaum on the shores of the sea of Galilee! 40 miles away. (SLIDE 9). Now this 40 mile journey you can walk today....its called the "Jesus Trail" (SLIDE 10). Through victory in temptation the Lord brought His Divine power into the

outermost plane of His life----this is what is represented by the Lord's move from Nazareth to Capernaum.

We all recognize water as a symbol for truth and a sea is a picture of truths gathered in 1 place----our memory. Fish picture affections for these truths which gives them life and puts them to use. There are two principal seas mentioned in the Word....the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea...they are connected by the River Jordan (SLIDE 11). The town of Capernaum is next to the Sea of Galilee and this sea is full of life! Loaded with fish and fisherman! SLIDE 12. Water flows down the Jordan River into the Dead Sea.....SLIDE 13. Here you will find nothing living...the salt content is so high nothing can survive.....all you can do is SLIDE 14 float on it.

(SLIDE 11)The Sea of Galilee is loaded with fish and
fisherman!