Priorities from the life of the Lord Jesus

From a look at the life of Jesus in Mt. 1-4 we can see five clear priorities we need to focus on. We pray that these will be our priorities as we grow as disciples and disciple-makers.

Worship before service

Mt. 2:11, ***"They entered the house and saw the child…and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts…"***

The wise men worshipped before they offered their gifts. We must return to the place of being worshippers before offering our gifts to Jesus. Let us make worship our default attitude and garment. We are being called to be 'natural worshippers'. Wake up with worship. Live through the day in worship. Worship as you retire for the day. Encourage and develop whatever will promote your worshipping environment and flee all forms of worship killers. Soak your life in worship. Worship isn't optional!

Let your lifestyle please God

Mt. 3:17, ***"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy.' "***

Jesus' life brought joy to the Father even before He began His public ministry. Correct lifestyle precedes ministry. Fight the temptation to be busy when your inner life is empty and your character is weak. Let our lifestyle and behavioural patterns display the glory of God. Let our ambition be to please God by our lifestyles. Let us not hide behind activities, work and ministry while our lifestyle may be corrupt and empty. Let's choose to live right before we serve right Living right to please God isn't optional!

Focus on spiritual warfare

Mt. 4:10, ***" 'Get out of here, Satan', Jesus told him…"***

Even Jesus needed to rebuke Satan before he left Him alone! We need to recognize that we will receive nothing unless we fight for it and we must rekindle the passion to wait before God to receive all He has ordained for us. Temptations and satanic activities abound around us and around our loved ones. We need to return to the place of engaging the enemy who is constantly at work to steal and ruin what God has ordained for us and our loved ones. There are losses that can be curbed if we focus again on spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare isn't optional!

Make disciples

Mt. 4:19-20, ***"Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once and followed."***

In a world where the pursuit of livelihood is the game of the day, we need to call people to invest their lives in living beyond basic existence. Jesus called the disciples to follow Him into an exciting life of living for the Kingdom and we are called to do the same. We need to challenge our friends and peers to aim at higher goals and purposes in life. Making disciples is calling people out of the low-level 'live for myself syndrome' into this new exciting life of living for God's Kingdom. For disciples, making disciples is not optional!

Touch the vulnerable

Mt. 4:16, ***" 'The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shone.' "***

While numerous institutions will offer us many opportunities to 'serve', we need to realise that there are millions who still 'sit in darkness and where death casts its shadow'. The most vulnerable and needy in our generation remain unreached because we haven't reached them. 'Missions' is targeting the unreached and untouchables! Jesus deliberately went to Capernaum because of the stark needs there. Let us consciously choose to invest our lives and resources in reaching those that the world and the church may have forgotten. Reaching the unreached is not optional.