

John Was in Prison When Jesus Went into Galilee

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(Mark 1:14)

John Was Not in Prison When Jesus Went into Galilee
(John 1:43; 3:22-24)

Jesus Christ traveled extensively throughout his ministry, and he went to some of the same towns on numerous occasions, and Galilee happened to be one of these frequently visited locations (Mt. 3:13; 4:18, 23; 15:29; 17:22; 19:1; 26:32; 28:7,10,16). On one of Christ's trips to Galilee, John the Baptizer had not yet been arrested and imprisoned.

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and he found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me' (Jn. 1:43; cf. 2:1-2; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

After these things Jesus and his disciples came into the land of Judea, and there he remained with them and baptized. ²³Now **John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim**, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. ²⁴For John had not yet been thrown into prison (Jn. 3:22-24; emphasis added).

In this last section of scripture, John was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, which is a region around Mount Ebal consisting of an open valley that extends to the Jordan River and is full of springs. Consequently, John was not even in Galilee at the time that Christ came into Judea (Jn. 3:22). In fact, at the same time that Christ entered Judea, a dispute arose between John's disciples and the Jews about some aspect of purification, and Jesus departed again for Galilee (Jn. 3:25; 4:1-3).

During one of Christ's trips to Galilee, John had been arrested and it was at this point that Christ began

preaching. So Christ did not commence preaching until John's commission was finished.

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel (good news). ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand (has drawn near). **Repent, and believe in the gospel** (Mk. 1:14-15; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, on any occasion that Christ entered Galilee prior to John's arrest, Christ did not preach about repentance of sin. Why? Because Christ would have pre-empted and duplicated what John was already doing.

But when he (John) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his (Christ's) baptism, he (John) said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸Therefore **bear fruits worthy of repentance** (Mt. 3:7-8; Ed. notes in parenthesis; emphasis added).

After John's arrest, Christ went into Galilee and began preaching the same message John had been proclaiming, and that message still applies today. Therefore, any claim that Mark 1:14 contradicts John 1:43; 3:22-24 is a distraction from the important lesson contained within these scriptures. That lesson is that both John and Christ taught the necessity of repentance, followed by obedience to God's law and commandments, for anyone expecting to inherit everlasting life (see study: John the Baptist Was Elias).

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