



### **THE ROYAL COMPLEX - The King's Way - Matthew 4:23-25 - January 23-29**

**Main Idea:** The King's way is both word and deed

#### **Look Back (Remind yourselves of the challenge from last week)**

Last week you were challenged to look at Jesus' call (follow, be changed, be on mission) and recognize one area of your life that you need to improve. What did you come up with? What steps are you taking to strengthen this area?

#### **Look Up (Wrestle with the passage itself)**

*Read Matthew 4:23-25 together.*

This section wraps up chapter four of Matthew, the summarization of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Thus far we have seen him take the baton from his cousin John the Baptist and begin to preach repentance. He has called on several young men to be his disciples, the ones who would carry his ministry forward and teach others to do the same. And now we see the work of Jesus' hands, the healings and miracles that resulted in crowds from all over coming to see and follow him.

Notice the progression here. Jesus goes through a season of formation and testing in the wilderness. He emerges to learn that his time has come, and the message of truth is now his to take over. Then three things begin: he preaches truth, he invests in his followers, and he brings

healing and restoration to those around him. The life and ministry of Christ is summarized in this chapter.

**Discussion Question:** What connections do you see between the time of formation in the wilderness and Jesus' powerful ministry? What does that tell us about God's purposes for seasons of testing in our lives?

**Look Forward (Challenge to do something with it)**

Jesus' methodology for ministry was pretty direct: word and deed. He balanced the message of the Kingdom and the truth of the gospel with actions that reinforced the good news. As followers of Him, this balance should speak to us and how we organize our lives.

**Discussion Question:** When you think of the tension between words (telling truth) and deeds (living truth), where do you begin to lose balance? In other words, are you more apt to speak or do?

**Challenge:** Based on how you answered the question above, take some time in your group to think about how you could balance more to the other side. Listen as group members describe their own situation and see if anything inspires you. Is there something you need to say to someone in your life? Is there an action of mercy and kindness that you need to follow to balance your speech? Your challenge for this week is to take one concrete step to doing something on the "other side" of your imbalance between word and deed.

**Prayer challenge:** Pray that God would grant you wisdom and insight into where you need to be more balanced in your progression to being more like Jesus.