

Commitment to Serve

“Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed.... And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum...that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying...the people which sat in darkness saw great light; and... from that time forth Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:12-17).

This painting depicts the moment Jesus learns of John’s imprisonment and leaves home to start His ministry. He leaves behind His mother and His family, His life as a carpenter, and heads off as a shepherd to gather His sheep.

Christ was on a mission for His Father to teach the gospel unto men. He lived His life in service of others and with His death he liberated all men from the bondage of sin. Through the scriptures, we learn of His ministering unto the sick and afflicted, teaching obedience to God’s commandments, and performing miracles.

On Jesus’s way to Jerusalem, He stopped in a village where he found 10 lepers. Recognizing Him from a distance, they called to Him and begged for Him to heal them. Jesus told them to show themselves to the priest which was customary for lepers at that time. Through this small act of faith, they were healed. However, only one of the lepers returned to thank Jesus for this miracle. Jesus asked where the other nine were, but they did not show.

Some may miss the significance of what Christ did for them. Leprosy would have affected every aspect of their lives. Beyond the unsightly physical disfigurement and pain, they were social pariahs as well. They were impoverished and forced to live outside the protection of the city either alone or with other lepers. After being given back their lives, returning to family, and being reintegrated into society, only one returned to express his gratitude.

This is one example of many when Jesus showed compassion and served His fellow man. During His mortal ministry, He shared the good news of the gospel and expressed His love through word and deed. Jesus continued to serve His people all His life and His final and ultimate act of service was through His death and resurrection.

John 15: 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.