

# “Pivotal Moments”

Script - Mt. 4:12-17

## A. Pivotal moment

1. Definition - It is an important point that signifies a shift in direction. You see the word pivot in pivotal. That is because when something is pivotal, it is central & everything related to the topic turns or depends on it.
2. Jesus had several in his life. Today's scripture is only one (Mt. 4:12). At 12 years old in the temple was another and with Satan's temptations Mt. 4, etc.
3. Pivotal moments can take you off course and sidetrack if you are not careful to be guided correctly during those times.
4. Some people think that wisdom comes with age, but according to Job it doesn't always work that way (Job 32:7-9).

## B. Mt. 4:12 has two points in the verse.

1. What was it that caused Jesus to leave the area? What triggered His decision (When he heard that John was put into prison).
  - a. According to Jn. 3:22-30, Jesus was running a ministry at the same time that John was still running his ministry.
  - b. John's disciples complained to John that Jesus's ministry was growing and John's was declining (Jn. 3:26).
  - c. John gives his own disciples a beautiful explanation by saying "He must increase and I must decrease", showing that He was fulfilled in what he came to do (see Jn. 3:27-31).
  - d. John said that the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus without limits (Jn. 3:34). According to several verses when a person has the Holy Spirit guiding them they gain understanding they are more sensitive to God's guidance (Isa. 30:21; Jn. 14:16-18; Jn. 16:13; Jn. 20:21-22). Those that resist the Holy Spirit don't have this guidance (Eph. 4:17-19).
  - e. There are many verses that say God is willing to guide us and give us wisdom (James 1:5; Isa. 58:11; Ps. 32:8-9; Prov. 3:5-6; Ps. 37:23; Prov. 16:9).
2. Where Jesus choose to go? Why did he choose to go there? (He went to Galilee).
  - a. According to our text (Mt. 4:12-17) Jesus went to Galilee and fulfilled a prophecy from Isa. 9:1-2.
  - b. Several times Jesus showed that he was familiar with the prophecies and scripture. At 12 years old in the temple (Lk. 2:41-48) and when tempted by Satan he quoted scripture (Mt. 4).
  - c. Jesus must have been familiar with the prophecy of Isa. 9:2 so he was guided by scripture as to where he would go. There are several places in Scripture that God promises to guide us with his word (Ps. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

## C. APPEAL - God will guide us today through the pivotal moments in our life if we seek and listened to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and study, memorize his word to store it up in our hearts.