

## **From Judea to Galilee**

**Matthew 4:12**

**John 4:1-3**

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### **Texts:**

**Matthew 4:12, Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, he withdrew into Galilee.**

**Note:** John fills in many details of Jesus' early ministry which were not included in Matthew, Mark or Luke.

### **John 4:1-3,**

- 1. Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John**
- 2. (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were),**
- 3. He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.**

### **Commentary:**

**John 4:1, Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John**

I. Information had reached the Pharisees that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John the Baptist.

A. The Pharisees were Jesus' enemies and would have confronted him if he had remained in Judea.

B. To avoid this pre-mature confrontation with the jealous Pharisees, Jesus left Judea for Galilee.

C. Jesus traveled through Samaria, not around it.

**John 4:2, (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were),**

I. Jesus did not personally baptize anyone.

A. Christ's disciples did all the actual baptizing.

B. To be baptized by a disciple of Christ and by the Lord's command was the same for all intents and purposes as if Jesus had himself done the baptizing.

**John 4:3, He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.**

I. Jesus traveled from Judea in the south to Galilee in the north of Palestine.

II. Matthew makes the point that Jesus' leaving Judea also had to do with Jesus' having heard that John had been arrested.

A. Herod no doubt knew of Jesus' association with John.

B. Herod could have more easily arrested Jesus if He had remained in Judea, so Jesus mainly avoids Jerusalem and Judea, apparently to avoid bringing the growing conflict with the Pharisees to a conclusion before Jesus had completed His preaching.

## From Judea to Galilee

### Questions

1. According to Matthew, why did Jesus leave Judea for Samaria? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. According to John's Gospel, what was a second reason Jesus left Judea for Galilee? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who made and baptized more disciples, John the Baptist or Jesus?

How many people did Jesus personally baptize? How did you arrive at this number? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Why were the Pharisees interested in who baptized more, John or Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Jesus left Judea for Galilee to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ with  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.