



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Message and Men!

Matthew 4:12-25

Message #6 of 80 – S1036

Sermon given on February 19, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Message and Men!

Matthew 4:12-25

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 4**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The King and His Kingdom**
- One of the things that has often caused me to marvel is that God wants to speak to me – to me personally.
- And not just me – all of humanity!
- In fact, He has been speaking to mankind since He created Adam in the Garden. **Hebrews 1:1**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets...

- Unfortunately, people have regularly chosen not to listen to God's prophets, so, God sent His Son to speak to us. **Hebrews 1:2a**

...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...

- Not only did Jesus come to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins – He also came to teach us about the kingdom of God.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to make us willing to listen - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Message and Men!**
- So far, we have seen the baptism of Christ and God's great declaration of pleasure and satisfaction with Jesus His Son.
- He was immediately led out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil and tested by God.
- Jesus, though on the verge of death after fasting for forty days, resisted those temptations by trusting in God's Word.
- He passed God's test perfectly because He was perfect and set for us an example of holy living in the most difficult circumstances – Trusting God and His Word completely.
- After His ordeal in the wilderness, the angels came and ministered to Jesus.
- At some point He returns to Nazareth.

- And then it was time for Jesus to begin to do what He had come to do for the Father and for us.
 - **Matthew 4:12**
 - Herod threw John the Baptist in prison because John kept telling Herod about his sin.
 - **Matthew 4:13-16**
 - Jesus would end up doing most of His ministry around the Sea of Galilee and in the city of Capernaum.
 - Matthew tells us this was a fulfillment of prophecy.
 - Eleven times in Matthew's gospel we are told that something about Jesus' life or ministry is a fulfillment of prophecy.
 - Verse 15 contains the prophecy that Jesus would minister in the area around Galilee.
 - Verse 16 is a prophecy with a promise.
 - All nonbelieving people are sitting in darkness.
 - Even those who try to do good.
 - Without God, without Jesus there is only darkness.
 - Jesus came as the Light to take away the darkness **John 8:12**.
- Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**
- Before I was saved, I didn't know I was sitting in darkness.
 - It was just how life was. God had to open my eyes to the light, or I would still be in darkness in ignorant bliss.
 - And in the next chapter of Matthew, Jesus will say that believers are the light **Matthew 5:14-16**.
- You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**
- Our light shines when we walk boldly and fearlessly in faith and obedience to Christ.
 - I am so thankful that God put light-bearers into my life, especially Kelly. I resisted her light for a long time, but eventually God softened my heart of stone and opened my eyes.
 - Next, we are given Jesus' message.
 - **Matthew 4:17**

- This is word-for-word the same message John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River.
- We talked a lot about repentance when we looked at chapter three.
- If you missed it, I would encourage you to go back and listen to or watch it again.
- ‘kingdom of heaven’ = ‘kingdom of God’.
- Where is the kingdom of heaven/God? That is not a new question.

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

- The kingdom of God is wherever God is king.
- The kingdom of heaven is within us when we allow Jesus to sit on the throne of our heart and worship Him as Savior-King.
- Next, Jesus chooses some men to follow Him as He does the Ministry God sent Him to do.
- **Matthew 4:18-19**
- If you were going to choose twelve men to help you establish a spiritual kingdom on the earth, what kind of men would you pick?
- Probably men more spiritual than these ones!
- Guys like Peter, who would deny Jesus three times.
- James and John wanted the best seats in the kingdom and once tried to convince Jesus to call down fire on a village that rejected Jesus.
- Matthew was a tax-collector. Thomas was a doubter.
- Nathanael was a skeptic.
- And Judas Iscariot was a thief and a betrayer.
- If we knew more about the rest of them, they probably wouldn’t be much better.
- Eleven of those twelve men went on to take the message of Christ and the resurrection to the ends of the earth.
- In Acts 17:5 they were accused of having ‘turned the world upside down.’
- Jesus called them to follow Him, and the next verse gives us their response.

- **Matthew 4:20**
- God would call us to a similar response.
- When He calls, we have a choice, respond or send the call to voicemail.
- This is not just for the big calls of life; it is every day.
- God's desire is immediate obedience and submission to His will, even in the small things.
- When you wake up in the morning, before you do anything else, say 'yes' to God.
- Jesus continues on His walk on the beach.
- **Matthew 4:21-22**
- Jesus didn't pick people the rest of the world would nod and agree with.
- He didn't call princes, priests, or politicians.
- I really appreciate that.
- When we were sent out to start this church in 2004, I had been a believer for seven years, the last two as a pastor.
- I had no formal training in ministry.
- I had not been taught how to study the Bible or prepare messages.
- I had almost no preparation on how to start a church.
- God called – I answered, 'yes.' It was as simple as that.
- Imagine if you were the family or friends of these guys.
- They were walking away from the family business and their livelihood to follow Jesus.
- And they had no idea what they would mean for them.
- When I told my boss in 2002, I was leaving to be a pastor at my church, he looked at me with a stunned look on his face.
- I walked away from a good job making more than I had before or since in my life that included good prospects for the future.
- He told me that I was throwing my life away.
- He couldn't have been more wrong.
- I found the life I was meant to live – a life that led to us starting this church.
- God does not need highly trained, well-equipped people to serve Him.

- All He needs is willingness.
- Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry.
- **Matthew 4:23-25**
- Teaching tends to focus on the mind – preaching tends to reach the heart. Both are important.
- My style tends toward teaching, but my prayer is that God would make me a better preacher.
- One of the things that made Jesus unique were His miracles, especially His healings.
- Nothing was too hard for Jesus to heal.
- Anyone Jesus tried to heal was healed completely.
- Many of those who came to be healed ended up following Jesus.
- Jesus calls some to throw down their nets and follow Him.
- But that is not the calling of most people.
- Some He calls to come out to do the work of the ministry, but most He calls to stay where they are and do the work of the ministry.
- We see that described in **Ephesians 4:11-12a**.
And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry...
- A few, like me, are called to devote their whole life to the work of the ministry.
- Most are called devote their life to the work of the ministry while doing some other thing.
- Either one is the right one if God is leading there.
- After Jesus returned to heaven, He left the message of the gospel in the hands of His disciples.
- They, in turn left it in the hands of those they ministered to.
- It has been passed down through the generations to us.
- Looking at the people God chose in our text to follow Jesus as He shared the gospel, it shouldn't surprise us that He can use any one of us to do it also.
- Who knows what might happen if we would let God set our hearts on fire for Jesus.
- Let's pray for revival in our heart, families, and church.

- Let's pray that the spark of revival in Asbury College would spread across country. - **Pray**