

Matthew 4:12-25 – The King's Message and Men!

Scriptures:

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been

Notes:

Why did John's imprisonment result in Jesus going to Galilee? To fulfill prophecy?

This is John the Baptist. John had been arrested by Herod and would eventually be beheaded by him.

put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

Scriptures:

13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in

Notes:

Nazareth was Jesus' hometown.

Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions

of Zebulun and Naphtali,

Scriptures:

Isaiah 46:9-10 -

Remember the former things of old,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times things that are not yet done,

Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,

And I will do all My pleasure.'

14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken

Word study

Notes:

'that it might be fulfilled' – God spoke hundreds and thousands of years before Christ about Him. These prophecies were meant to prepare people for His arrival.

Only God can speak about the future with perfect accuracy (Isa. 46:9-10).

by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

Scriptures:

15 *"The land of Zebulun and the land of*

Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the

Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:

Notes:

Quotation of Isaiah 9:1-2. Zebulun and Naphtali were parts of the Northern tribes of Israel. They were some of the first to be taken away by the Assyrians. They had regularly been accused by God of allowing the darkness of idolatry to creep into their culture.

At the time of Christ, there was a strong influence in the culture from pagan, non-God-worshipping cultures.

Scriptures:

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."

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.

16 *The people who sat in darkness have seen*

a great light, and upon those who sat in the

region and shadow of death light has

dawned."

Notes:

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](#)).

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 ([Matt. 5:14](#)). Out light shines when we walk 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.

'shadow of death' – darkness and death are closely linked in Scripture. Sitting or abiding in darkness leads to death. The only hope of escape is to receive the light which leads to life.

In the same way plants need light to live, humans need spiritual light to live spiritually.

Scriptures:

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."

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to

Word study

Word study

say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at

Word study

hand."

Notes:

John the Baptist was a prophet of God. When Jesus starting preaching, He said the exact same thing John did. This is proof that John was faithful to the message God gave Him.

As a prophet, John was called to speak the words God wanted him to speak. If we remember that Jesus is the Word of God, we recognize that John was speaking the words of Christ. Therefore, John's message was the same as Christ's, not the other way around.

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.

The Jews were expecting a physical kingdom with a king would overthrow their enemies.

'kingdom of heaven' = 'kingdom of God'. Where is the kingdom of heaven/God? The kingdom of God is wherever God is king. Jesus spoke about that (Luke 17:20-21).

Scriptures:

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee,

saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and

Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea;

for they were fishermen.

Notes:

Why did Jesus choose the Twelve to walk with Him – to be His disciples? And why these particular men?

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.

Scriptures:

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will

Word study

Notes:

make you fishers of men."

Scriptures:

20 They immediately left *their* nets and

followed Him.

Notes:

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 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. You might ask, 'How do I know what He is going to ask?' It doesn't matter, the answer should be the same, no matter what He asks.

Scriptures:

21 Going on from there, He saw two other

Notes:

brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John

his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their

father, mending their nets. He called them,

Word study

22 and immediately they left the boat and their

father, and followed Him.

Notes:

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.

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in

Word study

Notes:

This is summary of Jesus' ministry. 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.

their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the

Word study

One of the things that made Jesus unique were His miracles, especially His healings. Nothing was too hard for Jesus to heal. Anyone that Jesus tried to heal was healed completely.

kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness

Word study

and all kinds of disease among the people.

Scriptures:
John 21:25 - And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

24 Then [†]His fame went throughout all Syria;

Word study

Notes:
People travelled great distances and Jesus healed them. John tells us that it happened so much that they couldn't keep track of it all ([John 21:25](#)).

Who are the 'they' in 'they brought'? It was either people who had heard about Jesus' healing power or people who had been healed by Jesus. Jesus only called twelve men to follow Him, but He gave a witness and testimony to the multitudes.

and they brought to [†]Him all sick people who

were afflicted with various diseases and

torments, and

Word study

those who were demon-possessed, epileptics,

Word study

and paralytics; and [†]He [†]healed them.

Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - 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, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

25 Great multitudes followed Him—from

Word study

Galilee, and *from* Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea,

and beyond the Jordan.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)

Notes:

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 (Eph. 4:11-16).

One of the best ways to bring people to Jesus is to get excited about what He has said or about what He has done. Get excited about God, His Word, His church. Love God and love His people. It will show and others will want what you have.