

Matthew 4:12–25

The King of Light, Raiding the Kingdom of Darkness

Saturday, October 28, 2023 • Read Matthew 4:12–25

Questions from the Scripture text: What did Jesus hear in v12? Where did He go? In Galilee, where did He leave (v13)? Where did He come to dwell? What was the city by? In what regions? Why did He have to move here (v14)? How many parts of v15 (cf. Isa 9:1) had been literally, geographically fulfilled? What does this fulfillment from v14 and preaching in v17 imply about the darkness, death, and light in v16? What does Jesus preach and say (v17, cf. 3:2)? Whom does He see in v18? Doing what? Why? What does He tell them to do (v19)? What does He promise? What do they do (v20)? When? Whom does He see in v21? With whom? Doing what? What does Jesus do? What do they leave (v22)? When? To do what? Where is Jesus going in v23? What was He doing? Where? What did He preach? What did He do to accompany this preaching? What went through where in v24? What did they bring to Him? What did He do? What did multitudes do in v25? From where?

What is the news of the kingdom like? Matthew 4:12–25 looks forward to the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us **the news of the kingdom is good news because the requirement that it demands is given by the great King Himself.**

A people who are in darkness, v12–17. The quote from Isaiah 9:1–2 (v14–16) is rather uncomplimentary toward Galilee (v12), Nazareth, and Capernaum (v13). Jesus did not come to the worthy. He came to the unworthy. Jesus did not come to those who walked in light but to those who sat in darkness. Jesus did not come to those who were full of life, but whose region was made up of death-shadow. And so Jesus comes with a message (v17) that is, in part, the same as John's (cf. 3:2): "Be converted for the kingdom of heaven approaches."

People whom the King uses to acquire subjects, 18–22. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were men doing good honest work. Simon and Andrew cast nets (v18). James and John worked with their father and mended nets (v21). But Jesus comes to call them to do good honest work, not with nets (v20) and boats (v22) but with the Word. Not with their father (v21–22) but with Jesus (v19a, end of v21). The Lord Jesus uses their previous work as a sort of template for their new work ("fishers of men"). It is good, honest work too. He takes those who are lowly and calls them to a task that is noble and great indeed! The lowly can work this task, because it is the great King Himself Who works through them.

The good news that the nature-changing King has come, v23–25. One great difference between Jesus's message and John's was that Jesus could say more than that they had to be changed (v17). He could announce the kingdom as gospel, as good news, as glad tidings (v23). He was the mighty One to come, Who gives the new heart by baptizing men with His holy spirit (cf. 3:11).

It is this preaching of good news that is primary in v23. But one cannot see a new heart of repentance immediately. Repentant hearts are borne out by repentant lives. So He attested that preaching through something they could see: new health that overcame the sickness and disease that belong to the body of death in the groaning creation (v23b, cf. Jn 5:36; Ac 10:38; Heb 2:4 and Rom 7:24, 8:19–23).

The people may not understand so well about the need for the new heart. But they understand that the King and His kingdom have come. The new kingdom life is for all sorts of conditions (v24). And it is recognized by people from every region (v25). The King has come!

What is Jesus's kingdom like? What must you be like to enter it? How can this even happen? For whom is He king?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for coming, Yourself, not only to be the Great King, but to give us the new life that is necessary for us to come into the kingdom. Grant unto us to hope in You for new life now in our souls, and life forever that in which we have been perfected in soul and body! For we receive this life from our all-powerful and abundantly merciful Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72C "May Waving Grain on Hilltops Thrive" or TPH375 "All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus's Name"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 4 verse 12 through 25. These are God's words. Now, when Jesus heard that John had been put into prison, he departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth. He came and dwelt in, Capernaum. Which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophets saying.

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way, of the sea. Beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. 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. From that time.

Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent. For the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Then 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. And he said to them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

They immediately left their nets and followed him. Going on from there. He saw two other brothers. James some observant and John his brother. In the boat was mending their father's nets. He called them and immediately. They left the boat and their father. And followed him. And Jesus went about old Galilee teaching in their synagogues.

Preaching. The gospel of the kingdom. And healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Among the people, then his fame went throughout all Syria. Then they brought to him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases. And torments and those who were demon possessed. Epileptics and paralytics.

And he healed them.

Great multitudes followed him from Galilee. And from the capitalists, Jerusalem, Judea. And beyond the Jordan. And the sense this reading of God's inspired and Aaron's work.

So, the first thing that we see here is, That. Apart from Christ. We are in the domain of darkness and death. That was. One of the main ideas of the passage from Isaiah. That is quoted here. Not just that. Was Zebulun and Naphtali. And Galilee.

Were places of darkness and death. But that this whole world ever since our sin, Ever, since man has been perhaps. By nature children of wrath sons of disobedience. This whole world has been. Plagued by darkness. And death. And that the light isn't something that Jesus brings. The light is someone.

Who Jesus is? And so, he announces. Repent. For the kingdom of heaven as a hand. In verse 17. Because we need, To be changed. From death to life. From darkness to light. From unrighteous to righteous from. Guilty. To just and innocent. And so, he announces the same thing, the same necessity.

That his cousin John had been announcing earlier. In verse 17. But, What we then see in verses 18 through 25? Is that Jesus is the one from whom. The repentance can come. Remember in the previous chapter that was the big problem with John's ministry. Or the big deficiency in John's ministry.

That he could announce the need for repentance. But we all need the one who is coming after him, who is mightier than he? Who could pour out the spirit. Who can give repentance, who can give in your mind. A new heart. A new life. And so the rest of the passage shows the Lord Jesus.

Giving a new life in these two different ways. First in verses 18 through 22. A new life in terms. Of purpose. And duty. Or purpose and task. And second. In your life, in terms. Of health and strength. That belongs to the world to come. And so, when you have Jesus, Calling Simon and Andrew.

And James and John. He tells them follow me. And I will make you fishers of men. Verse 19. In verse 21 implies the same thing about James and John when it says he called them. And notice in both cases verse 20 and verse 22. In order to follow him, there were things that they left.

They immediately left their nets and followed him. Verse 20. Verse 22 and immediately they left the boat. And their father and followed him. Now, whenever a man becomes a believer, it does not mean that he has to take a new job. There are some people in order to be believers have to take new jobs.

But that is not. The primary lesson here and there are those who are called by God for the ministry of preaching the gospel. Of becoming fishers of men, men. Fishers who must leave their previous occupations. And set aside. Some previously close relationships. In order to participate in or follow.

In the ministry that the Lord Jesus gives them. But whether we have to leave off our former, vocation. They're former daily calling or not. It is always true that following Christ means leaving off your former way of life. Your former way of thinking. Even if you're doing the same job, you're not doing it for the same reason.

You're not doing it for in the same way. It doesn't have the same place. In your life. That it did before Christ. Takes the first place, he becomes the reason he becomes. The, the one who shapes and governs the way that we do. Everything. And so, that's one way.

In which the Lord Jesus. Gives repentance. Is that his spirit gives a response to him? That leaves off a, the entirely, the former way. Of thinking about life approaching life. Now. Verse 23. Introduces a new kind of preaching. Or a new aspect of his preaching. Over 17 said from that time, Jesus began to preach and say, repent for the kingdom of heaven is and then verse 23.

Jesus went about a whole Galilee teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel. Of the kingdom. It's good news. Well, how can the fact that people who can't repent must repent? Be good news. Well, Jesus, demonstrated but what he did in the area of physical plague, and illness. What he had come to do and could do and would do.

In the area of spiritual play. And wickedness. So he wasn't just preaching the kingdom as good news. That had come not only to destroy the younger kingdom, but had come to take people who were under the dominion. That's the other kingdom.

Who are under the re in the region and under the shadow. Of death. And to bring them into his kingdom. So the kingdom of Satan would be destroyed. And here, the kingdom of grace. Comes. And begins advancing. And there are people being brought into it. And one of the things that he shows about the kingdom of grace is that it's final form will be the kingdom of glory.

A place where there is no sickness. And no disease. No, torments No demons causing seizures. No paralytics. The kingdom has come. In resurrection and new creation power. And we have displays of that power here in the passage in Jesus's ministry. But this is not. Even the final. A fullness of all of these things.

If one of these people who was healed, did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then sadly. They will still perish forever. And even those who did believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. They had been healed from something, they still died. And their ultimate, and final healing. The one that sticks if you will.

Will come in the resurrection. With a glorified body. And so even when the Lord Jesus is doing these things, They are testimonies to the reality. Of his ability. To give that new life that repentance. So that the kingdom is good news for us. Rather than the worst possible news.

If we do not come to faith in Jesus Christ, If the Holy Spirit, does not give us life. To believe in Jesus Christ. And to be joined to him. The advanced and nearness of the kingdom, will actually be the worst muscle abuse for us. Not. Not good news. It's good news.

For us. Because Jesus gives. Life. And so we have this glimpse this picture. Not only in the healings but also, in the following verse 25. Great multitudes. Pathologist verse 24. His fame went throughout all Syria. So even other regions and so you have great multitudes following them. Not just from Galilee 25.

But from the Decapolis. From Jerusalem from Judea. From beyond the Jordan. And so even here, right at the beginning of his public ministry, The great King who destroys the work of the devil who brings in the new creation. Who gives spiritual life and righteousness to his people and who gathers himself a multitude?

From the ends of the earth. Is being identified to us. Ask the Lord Jesus Christ. And not only did he himself? Proclaim himself and his kingdom as good and used to those whom he came. But the reason we have Matthew chapter 4, is because he by his spirit caused the speed to be written.

So that the kingdom would be announced as good news to you. And healing would be announced to you. Not that you may be recovered from your flu or cold or whatever ailments you have. Uh, whatever mental or emotional difficulties, you have but knowing that not only. Is their life and righteousness for you in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sophia. Don't ever mess with that, please. You're just destroying. Watch it.

Not only that you can have life and righteousness. Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But that every last particle. Of Satan's wicked work. And, Our first father's sin and fall and our sinning in him and falling in him, every last particle of the consequences. Will be overcome for us.

Jesus came. To destroy the works of the devil. To be the King. Overall creation. That delivers his people. And he is still. Gathering to himself this multitude. And he calls to you. To belong to him. That by his spirit giving you faith, trust to the Lord Jesus. Belong to him.

Be his subject. And, You will come into. The everlasting blessedness of his kingdom, as well. Let's pray. Our Father in heaven. We ask that you would give us that work of your spirit. That makes the announcement of the kingdom. Not. Merely urgent and potentially dangerous news. But good news in King, Jesus.

Give us faith in him. Give us joy. Over belonging to him, and his glory and his power. We ask it in his name, Amen.