



Matthew: Alive to God's Desire

Week 4, Sermon from October 2 Matthew 4:12-25

Matthew 4:12-25 (New International Version)

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Start It:

- If you agreed to chair a committee with a goal of starting a new Sunday school class, how would you pick your committee members?
- Assuming the potential committee members all love the Lord, how would their other similarities/differences contribute to reaching your goal?

Study It:

- Read Matthew 4:12-25 out loud. What does Jesus mean when he says, “...for the kingdom of God is at hand”?
- Why did Jesus choose to leave his home in Nazareth and begin His ministry in Galilee, where he was relatively unknown?
- Several of the men Jesus asked to follow him were fishermen. Did he see any qualities in that occupation that might help establish his ministry?
- Who is your favorite of the 12 disciples? Why?
- Why did Jesus devote so much effort to physical healing?

Live It:

- Do you have a current opportunity to go into different and/or unusual surroundings, i.e., out of your comfort zone, to witness for Christ?
- Jesus knew the Jewish ruling body would criticize his healing the sick, yet he continued to do the “right thing”. Have you ever been criticized for doing the “right thing”?
- Our opportunities are more limited today, but how can we heal/help the sick?
- How do we know if we are living in the kingdom of God right now?

Pray It:

- Close with a prayer, with people praying for the person on their right and the leader will close.