



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **Why You Should Join the Kingdom of God (Matthew 4:12-25)**

Date: **March 25, 2018**

Last week, Jesus overcame temptation in the wilderness and defeated Satan on our behalf as our sinless King. In this week's study, we'll finish off the rest of Matthew 4 as Jesus begins his earthly ministry. Jesus has been anointed the Messianic King by his Father (Matthew 3:17), he's undergone a time of preparation in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11), and now he is ready to begin ministering to people and establishing his kingdom throughout the land. After he hears of John the Baptist's arrest, he moves to the region of Galilee where he begins to preach, calling people to repent and join his kingdom. A light is growing in the darkness. He then calls his first disciples to join him in his ministry. The rescue mission has begun. Finally, he begins ministering to great crowds, proclaiming the gospel and healing every disease and affliction. His kingdom is starting to grow. As we study this text, we will see that we have been called to shine the light of the gospel in the darkness, to leave everything behind for the sake of the mission, and to take part in the work of ministering to people for the glory of Jesus Christ and the advancement of his kingdom.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 4:12-25 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been arrested, he moved to Galilee in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali (v. 12-13). Why is this significant?
 - b. What verses are quoted in verses 14-16? Why are these verses quoted? What do they teach us about Jesus?
 - c. What was the message that Jesus began to preach in verse 17? What does this message mean and where have we seen it preached before in Matthew?
 - d. Who were Christ's first disciples (v.18, 21)? What invitation did he give to them (v.19)?
 - e. What does Jesus mean by "fishers of men," (v. 19)? Why is this phrase significant (see Jeremiah 16:14-18)?
 - f. The disciples left everything behind and followed Christ. What can we learn from their decision and obedience?



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- g. In Matthew 4:23, we find the first use of the word “gospel” in the book of Matthew (and in the Bible). What is the “gospel” message that Christ was preaching?
- h. What did Jesus earthly ministry consist of (v. 23-24)? What did this result in (v. 24a, 25)?
- i. Compare the reach of John the Baptist’s ministry (3:5) to the reach of Jesus’ ministry (v. 24-25). What does this tell us about Jesus?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. The times were dark when Christ began his earthly ministry. How are the times dark today as well? Give examples. How does the gospel bring light to the dark realities of our culture?
3. Jesus said to his disciples, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” What does this invitation mean? How does this invitation apply to us today? How does Jesus make us fishers of men when we follow him?
4. The disciples left everything behind to follow Jesus (v. 20, 22, cf. Luke 5:11). Why is Jesus worth leaving everything behind for? What are some examples of things that Christ may ask us to leave behind as we follow him?
5. What are some examples of things we can do to take part in the work of building God’s kingdom? How are you currently involved in expanding the kingdom of God here on earth?

Accountability Question

Is there anything in your life that you need to leave behind in order to follow Christ with complete devotion?