

The Dawn of Kingdom Power

Matthew 4:12-25 - NCBC, April 14, 2019

Main Point: **Jesus' divine authority is proven by His earthly ministry.**

- **Fulfillment: Jesus is the light that overcomes darkness (12-17)**
 - Jesus has the power to bring life to your darkness
 - Jesus has the power to bring change to your mind
- **Followers: Jesus calls disciples into His kingdom work (18-22)**
 - Jesus has the power to choose you to follow Him
 - Jesus has the power to command you to obey Him
- **Fame: Jesus' words and works demonstrate His rule (23-25)**
 - Jesus has the power to preach kingdom messages
 - Jesus has the power to perform kingdom miracles

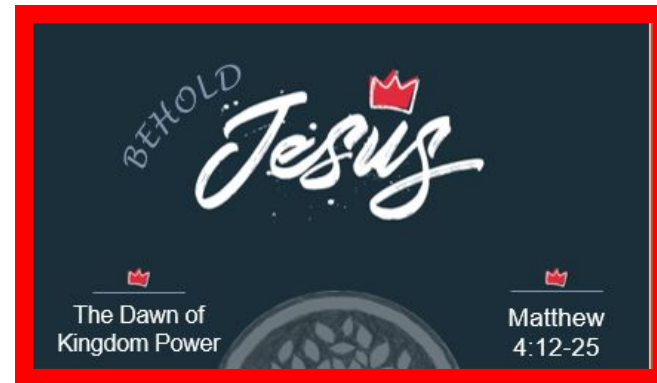
Application: **Obey God's commands in dependence upon God's power.**

- Behold the light of the world
- Repent of all that is darkness within you
- Obey all that God has commanded you
- Make disciples of all kinds of people

Opening Announcements:

- Good Friday Service – This Friday 4/19.
- Exit Offering today to assist Brock & Sami Lockenour's Gospel outreach in Chicago

<<A Mighty Fortress is Our God>>



“The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever!”¹ What a glorious time of worship together beholding King Jesus, and celebrating the Gospel realities of His eternal kingdom.

Today our Bibles are open to **Matthew chapter 4**, where we see “Kingdom Power Dawn” in **verses 12-25**.



¹ Lyrics from “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” Martin Luther

If you don't have a Bible, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you to use in our service together, and even take home as our gift to you. **Matthew chapter 4** is found on [page 809](#) in the giveaway Bibles.

And while you are opening your Bibles, can I just add my thanks for an amazing Easter Egg Outreach event yesterday? Wow church. You did it again. You made Jesus look good. You overwhelmed people with God's grace and hospitality yesterday. Well done church. Please keep praying that God will use our witness to draw hearts to know Him, and love Him, and worship Him forever.

I'm also thankful for Brent's comments regarding our Constitution revision. The last time our constitution was revised was 10 years ago. So as I've thought about the purpose and limitations of a church constitution through this revision cycle, I wondered if it might be helpful to remind us why churches have formal constitutions:

It's good to remember Christ's church existed for centuries without ever having formal constitutions. The primary reason we have a written constitution today is for legal recognition from our civil government. This means the first audience of our constitution is our state government, before our own membership. Our church constitution has never intended to be our highest governing document. The Holy Scriptures are our governing document. Our constitution is not our membership covenant. Church constitutions cannot protect a church from future failure or division. Only

God's Spirit and His Word can sufficiently offer such security and assurance.

Therefore we have made some attempts in this revision to simplify our constitution. Trying to right-size our constitution to keep it limited to what is required to satisfy our legal identity as a church, and leaving the specifics of how we do church to the authoritative direction of the Scriptures.

In other words we always want to be a church that points people to the Scriptures, more than to our own bylaws. Bylaws and constitutions have a good purpose in helping us to be legally recognized by our state. But when it comes to how we shepherd our members and actually do ministry, constitutions simply aren't sufficient enough. Only God's Word is sufficiently authoritative for all of our life and godliness together.

So please keep in mind this basic purpose of our constitution this week as you review the proposed revisions. Constitutions are helpful, but they are not ultimate. Constitutions are clarifying, but they are not comprehensive.

After you review the revisions this week please send us your questions, as we desire to glorify God by growing deeper and reaching farther together at New Castle Bible Church!



Today is Palm Sunday – when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem as a humble king while the fickle crowds shouted Hosanna, Hosanna – meaning Save Us! Deliver Us! Come and rule over us and be our King!!

But we know what happened just a few days later right? After the crowds publicly hailed Jesus as their king on Palm Sunday, they shouted Crucify Him, Crucify Him on Friday, right? So this Friday evening we'll remember His cross, and then we're coming back next Sunday to celebrate His resurrection together! He is Risen Church! He is risen indeed!

Jesus isn't seeking fickle fans. Jesus is calling disciples. Disciples who follow Him *both* on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Disciples who share Him with others both in their sunshine and their storms. So please keep praying that God's Spirit will work through us this week to invite others to join us for this special time of worship and celebration next Sunday!! This is such an amazing time to live on the earth as a Christ-follower!!



Please stand now for the reading of God's Word. Reading from **Matthew 4, verse 12**, in the English Standard Translation:

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father,

mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

This is God’s Word. Please be seated. **Let’s Pray.** Whenever you study the life of Jesus, you will benefit from consulting *all 4* biblical Gospels.

THE 4 GOSPELS			
Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jewish audience	Gentile audience	Gentile audience	Universal audience
Jesus is the Messianic King	Jesus is the Suffering Servant	Jesus is the Perfect Man	Jesus is the Son of God

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the first 4 books of the New Testament. When properly understood, they do not contradict each other, but provide 4 different witnesses of the same life and ministry of Jesus for our benefit.

Each author writes with his own purpose for his own audience. **Matthew** is for Jewish readers, presenting Jesus as King. **Mark** is for Gentiles, emphasizing Jesus as the suffering Servant. **Luke** is also for Gentiles, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man in as much detail and careful chronology as possible. **John** reveals Jesus as the Son of God in ways not otherwise revealed in the other 3 Gospels.

So whenever you study the life of Christ, I recommend you consult a Gospel harmony,² which attempts to piece all the Gospel accounts together in one cohesive chronology. Harmonies will enrich your understanding and bring colorful background to individual Gospel accounts as they present the glories of Jesus to you.

So you say, Ok, pastor. But how does this relate to our study of **Matthew 4** this morning?

Well remember, **Matthew** isn’t chronological. **Matthew** is thematic – or topical. Last week we studied how Jesus secured the perfect righteousness of His kingdom by overcoming Satan’s temptations in the wilderness. We saw the righteous triumph of Jesus in **verse 11**, and then **verse 12** today says *Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.*

If we didn’t have the other Gospel accounts, we’d naturally assume that John was arrested right after Jesus’ temptation, right?

² I recommend *A Harmony of the Gospels: New American Standard Version* by Thomas and Gundry. Other helpful harmonies include, *One Perfect Life* by MacArthur, or *The Life of Christ in Stereo* by Cheney.

But in fact, there's probably a year of Jesus' ministry between **Matthew 4:11** and **4:12**:

Mt 4:11 ... [The end of the King's temptation]

- John's Continuing Testimony of Jesus Jn 1:19-36
- 1st Call of Disciples to Faith in Christ Jn 1:37-51
- 1st Miracle @ Cana of Galilee Jn 2:1-12
- 1st Passover cleansing of Jerusalem Temple Jn 2:13-25
- Witness to Pharisee named Nicodemus Jn 3:1-21
- Final Public Testimony of John the Baptist Jn 3:22-36
- Witness to Samaritan Woman Jn 4:1-42

Mt 4:12 ... [The King's early ministry]

BEHOLD Jesus

John's gospel reveals how after Jesus' temptation, John the Baptist kept testifying that Jesus was the Son of God.³ In one three-day period Jesus called several disciples, including Peter and Andrew, to believe that He was the Christ.⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee with these disciples where He performed His first miracle⁵ before attending Passover at Jerusalem and cleansing the Temple.⁶ Jesus then witnessed to Nicodemus⁷ and all the half-breed Samaritans on his way back to Nazareth.⁸ At the end of this year John the Baptist testified "He must decrease, but [Jesus] must increase."⁹ The forerunner's ministry was coming to a close to make room for the ministry of the King Himself.

³ John 1:19-36

⁴ John 1:37-51

⁵ John 2:1-12

⁶ John 2:13-25

⁷ John 3:1-21

⁸ John 4:1-42

⁹ John 3:22-36

This all happened during the year between **Matthew 4:11** and **Matthew 4:12**. Matthew doesn't bother with any of these details. His focus is on the King, and he doesn't present the King's ministry until the King's forerunner, John the Baptist, is silenced by Herod.¹⁰

Matthew's main point of **verses 12-25** today is how,

Main Point

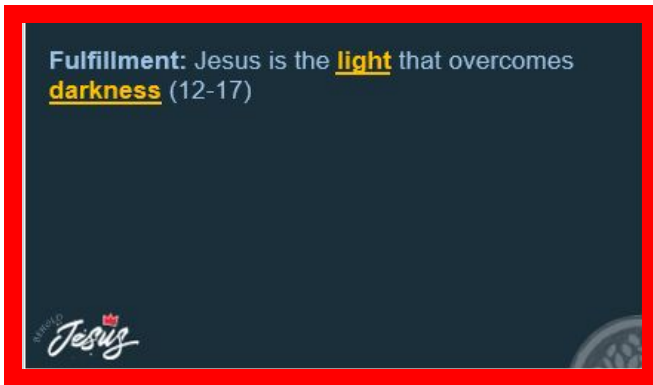
Jesus' divine
authority is proven
By His earthly ministry.

BEHOLD Jesus

Jesus' divine authority is proven by His earthly ministry. Kingdom power has dawned on the earth. Jesus is God. Matthew wants us to have no doubts about it. His earthly ministry proves it! So **verses 12-25 of Matthew 4** reveal the dawn of Kingdom power through fulfillment, followers, and fame.

Let's first look closer at **verses 12-17** to learn how,

¹⁰ Matthew 14:3-12



Jesus is the light that overcomes darkness.

Matthew 4:12 says, *Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.*

Jesus wasn't running in fear. Jesus was purposefully moving in fulfillment of God's plan. Now was the time for prophecy to be fulfilled. John the Baptist's ministry was now done. Now was the right time for Jesus to transition from His Judean ministry to His Galilean ministry.

He first went to his hometown in Galilee, Nazareth. But **Luke 4** tells us how Jesus was rejected and nearly thrown off a cliff after He proclaimed Himself to be the Christ.¹¹ So **verse 13** says,

And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

And then notice Matthew quotes once again from **Isaiah chapter 9**, *So that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:*

¹¹ Luke 4:16-30
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The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.¹²

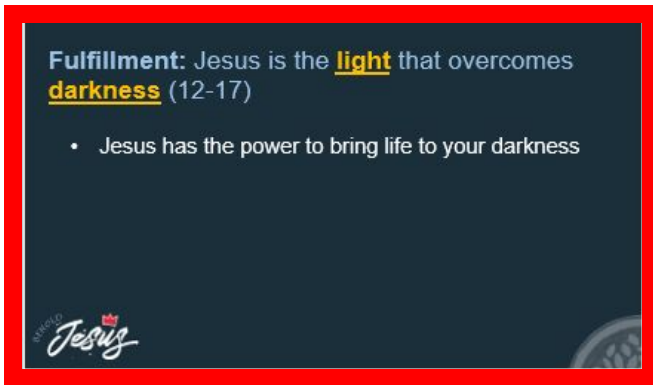
Now let me ask you question. If you were the Messiah, and your kingdom power was about to dawn on the world, where would you position yourself? What kind of people would you surround yourself with?

The most strategic right? The movers and the shakers. You and I would probably set up shop in the largest city, in Jerusalem, among the who's who's of the world. But not Jesus. This King settles himself in a very insignificant and quiet fishing village named Capernaum. Among a people just like all of us here today. In a region of spiritual darkness filled with not only with Jews, but also with Gentiles. No one would have guessed that the Messiah would come out of Galilee!¹³

But **Matthew** presents King Jesus as beginning his ministry in Galilean darkness to help us understand that,

¹² Quoted from Isaiah 9:1-2

¹³ John 7:41, 52 – yet Isaiah 9:1-2!



Jesus has the power to bring life to your darkness

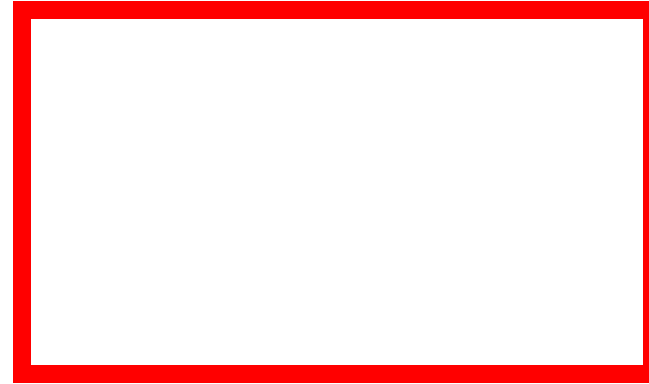
You see when **Isaiah** talks about the people of northern Israel living in darkness, he's not saying that the sun didn't shine on them. Darkness refers to spiritual darkness. **Proverbs 4:19** says, *The way of the wicked is like deep darkness...*

These people – just like us apart from God's grace – were living in the blindness of sin. They were disconnected from God. Their very hearts were dark.¹⁴

You know sometimes people ask us, where do you live, right? Can you imagine saying, "I live in darkness?" "I live in the subdivision called the shadow of death." My address is 1 Coffin Lane. Would you care to visit me sometime?

Surprisingly, this is exactly where Jesus sets up His ministry. For Jesus is God Himself in human flesh. He is the great light that opens blind eyes! Jesus is the brilliant hope for all who are trapped in the dark pit of sin!

¹⁴ Ephesians 4:18; Romans 1:21



John chapter 1 says it this way,

*In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*¹⁵

Jesus has power to bring light to your darkness, and life to your death! Jesus crawls into your dark coffin of sin with you, and gives resurrection life to all who believe on Him!

O hear the hope of this good news this morning! *Jesus is the true light of the world! Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life!*¹⁶

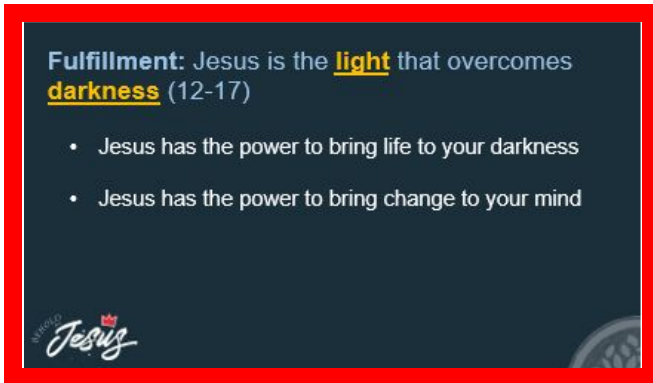
Jesus gives sight to the blind! Restores hope to the depressed! Grants freedom to the captives. And mercifully gives righteousness to the sinner!

¹⁵ John 1:4-5

¹⁶ John 8:12

But perhaps this morning you say, well pastor, I admit that sounds attractive ... but it just sounds too good to be true. I mean you don't understand how badly I've messed up my life. The darkness inside me scares me when I'm honest enough to even take an honest look at who I've become.

O listen carefully dear friend. Because Jesus not only has the power to bring life to your darkness, but



Jesus has the power to bring change to your mind

In **verse 17** Matthew wants us to know the primary message of Jesus' public ministry:

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Once the Baptizer's voice was silenced by Herod, Jesus begins preaching the exact same message.¹⁷ Repent – change your minds! He preaches with power, with authority, with conviction, and with certainty – Repent

¹⁷ Matthew 3:2
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from your sins! Change your perception of sin! Prepare yourself for God's kingdom rule by experiencing the inward metamorphosis of repentance!

You see, here's the biblical truth:



John 3:19 says that *the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*

Plain and simple. Sinners never repent. Repentance is not something that dead hearts do on their own.¹⁸ Just like spiritual cockroaches, sinners always run and hide when confronted with the holy reality of Jesus as the Light of Life!

But loved one – Jesus has the power to bring change to your mind. Kingdom power is dawning on you even now. Repent – turn from your sins, and thereby show that

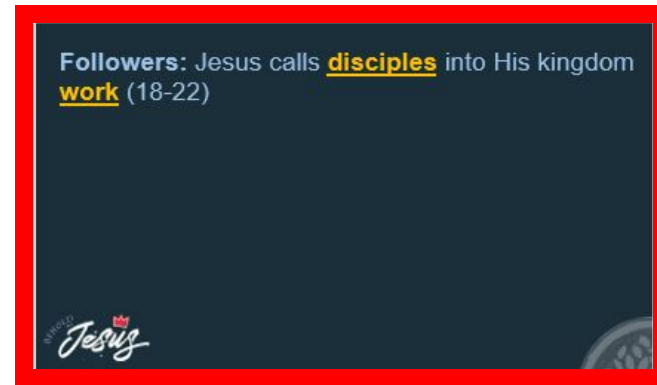
¹⁸ Acts 5:31, 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25; c.f. Ephesians 2:8-9

God's grace is actively working in you. *For whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.* Give glory to God by confessing your sins,¹⁹ turn from them, and bear fruits that evidence the grace of a God-given repentance within you!

You can dress up a dead body with the clothing of religion. But only God's grace is strong enough to shine life-giving light into the internal darkness of your soul. Only God's power is strong enough to open your blind eyes, and transfer you from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light!²⁰

So will you repent today? Will you stop pursuing your life's satisfaction in the region of death? Rather believe in Jesus who is the Light of the World, who grants life to all who believe on Him!

In fulfillment of **Isaiah 9**, Jesus is the light that overcomes darkness. But as all powerful kings do, Jesus fills his kingdom with followers. And so in **verses 18-22** we see further proof of His divine authority as,



Jesus calls **disciples** into His kingdom **work**

Verse 18 pictures an ordinary day in the ordinary life of two ordinary sets of brothers – Simon and Andrew, and James and John.

Now we know from **John 1**²¹ that these men were already following Christ by this time. They already knew Christ. But **Matthew** presents their discipleship beginning on this day because on this day Jesus called them to become fishers of men. This is the day when Jesus calls His disciples not just to believe on Him, but also to work for Him. Jesus does not want fans. The King desires ambassadors. Image-bearers. Disciple-makers. Fishers of men.

Luke 5 fills in more details to this amazing calling in **Matthew 4**:²²

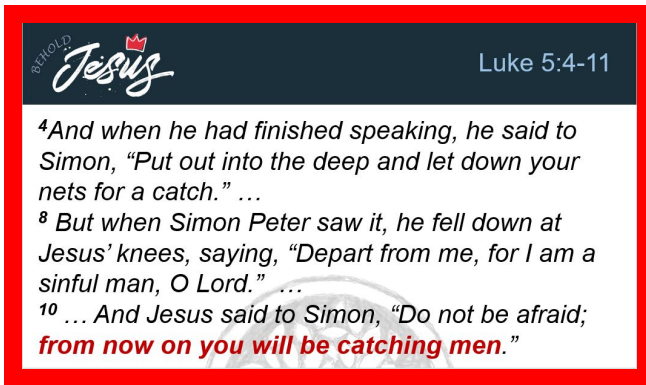
Jesus had used Simon's boat to preach to a large crowd on the shore. And after he finished preaching,

¹⁹ Joshua 7:19

²⁰ Colossians 1:13

²¹ John 1:40-42

²² Luke 5:1-11



he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."⁴ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."⁵ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.⁶ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.⁷ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."⁸ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

This ordinary day had just become extraordinary by the commanding power of Jesus! You can't help but see your own sin when you are confronted by the supernatural holiness of King Jesus!

And so **verse 19** back in **Matthew 4** records the Lord's call, *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

You see,



Jesus has the power to choose you to follow Him.

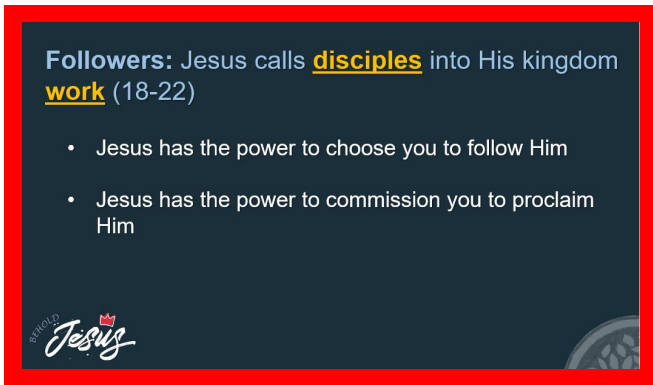
Notice the disciples didn't come to Jesus and ask if they could be His disciples. We do not choose Christ, but Christ chooses us!²³ Jesus takes the initiative in calling His disciples. What powerful mercy. What undeserved grace for simple sinners like Peter and Andrew, and me and you!²⁴

Follow me! – What a command! When the King who controls all the fish in the lake commands you to follow Him – causal indifference is not an option!! You understand that right? When your Creator God – speaks to your dark heart through His Word and commands to you follow Him – you must obey! You can't wait until tomorrow. Excuses don't cut it. Immediate obedience is the only right response to the command of God!

Jesus has the power to command you to obey Him, or you could say it this way,

²³ John 15:16

²⁴ Ephesians 1:4-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; C.f. Romans 9:15-16



Jesus has the power to commission you to proclaim Him.

I love that phrase, *I will make you* fishers of men. He didn't say, now fish for men. *I will make you* fishers of men! God's power always enables what He commands.

It is God's power that enables obedience to God's call! You can share the good news of Easter with others this week because it is God's Spirit at work within you!²⁵ It is God's Spirit that empowers God's people to witness to dark hearts, so that they might be saved for God's glory!

O church – may we be a people who are obedient to God's kingdom call. May we never labor more for fish that rot, and wealth that rusts, than souls that will shine like the light of the dawn in eternity!²⁶

There's so much more... I wish we'd have time to discuss more about our fishing commission this morning. Please consult the recommended resources on the back of your notes page. Jesus has the power to commission you to

²⁵ John 15:5; Philippians 2:13

²⁶ Proverbs 4:18; c.f. Isaiah 42:6, 49:6

proclaim Him! Will you know the joy of obeying Him by faith?

Finally, the end of **Matthew 4** proves Jesus' kingdom power by describing His fame at this point in His ministry:



Verses 23-25 describe how both Jesus' words and works demonstrate His kingly rule.

These verses describe how Jesus ministered widely throughout the entire region of Northern Galilee – a territory approximately the same size as Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties combined.²⁷

And how does **Matthew** summarize His ministry methods? *Teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.* Preaching and teaching the Gospel.

²⁷ Galilee was a region in northern Israel approximately 60 miles by 30 miles.



In other words, **Jesus has the power to preach kingdom messages**

From the very beginning, the kingdom of God has been marked by the authoritative preaching of the Gospel! Salvation for sinners! God's grace brings you a rescue that you could never earn or deserve. Your sins can be forgiven! Your mind can be changed! Your heart can be made new! God has done for you in Christ what you could never have done for yourself!

And to prove and authenticate the truthfulness of these radical claims, these verses describe the all-powerful healing ministry of King Jesus!



Jesus has the power to perform kingdom miracles

These miraculous signs and wonders proved that Jesus was God!²⁸ No one but God can raise the dead! No one but God can bring instantaneous and complete healing of organic diseases. It didn't matter if you had spiritual problems – like those oppressed by demons, or if you had mental problems – like epileptics,²⁹ or whether you had physical problems – like the paralyzed. Jesus has the power to authenticate His kingdom preaching with kingdom miracles.

Verse 25 summarizes Matthew's view of Jesus' fame at this juncture of His public ministry: *Great crowds followed Him* from throughout the entire region. The rest of Matthew's Gospel is going to use this two-fold formula of Jesus' powerful words and works to organize his argument that Jesus is the King.

²⁸ Hebrews 2:3-4

²⁹ The Greek word for epilepsy literally meant, "moonstruck" and was often used to describe those with mental weaknesses as well.



Clearly Jesus' divine authority is proven by His earthly ministry. Jesus is the light that overcomes darkness. Jesus calls disciples into His kingdom work. And Jesus' words and works both powerfully demonstrate His rule.

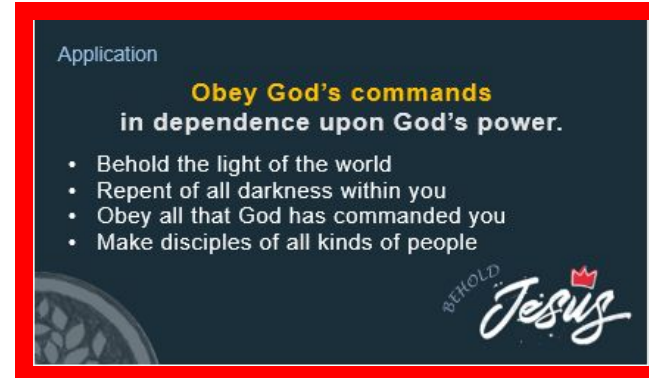
Therefore there's only one right response from us this morning isn't there?



We must obey God's commands in dependence upon God's power.

Even today, Jesus is calling us by His Spirit to follow Him. Calling every disciple to be a disciple-maker – promising to bring all the power of heaven to our aid. So obey God's two commands in this Scripture this morning. Repent! And Follow Christ!

He already knows you aren't strong enough. He knows you're dead, deaf, and dumb in your sin.³⁰ And yet He extends His life-giving grace to you for the sake of His own glory!



Behold the light of the world. Jesus is King! He is your life! Believe on His substitutionary death and resurrection that He accomplished on your behalf!
Repent of all that is darkness within you. Cry out to God, and by the power of His Spirit turn from your sins. **Obey all that God has commanded you.** Go public with your allegiance to Christ. Get baptized. Forsake all living for your earthly career. Instead now use your fishing boats to faithfully proclaim Christ's life-giving gospel! We have no alternative commission church. We must obey God's

³⁰ Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7-8

commands in dependence upon God's power and **Make disciples of all kinds of people!** There's no possibility of a causal or indifferent response to these commands today.

Will you repent? King Jesus is speaking to you. Will you follow the all-powerful King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

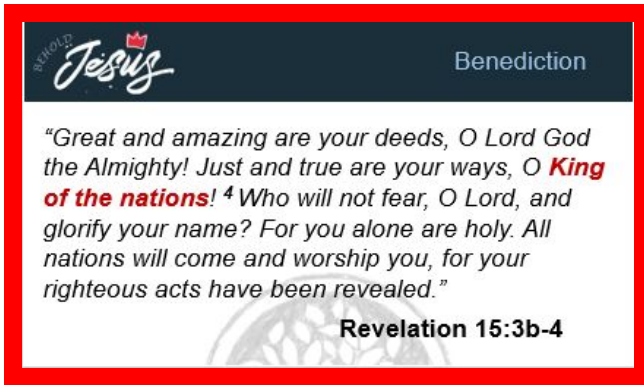


May God's kingdom power truly rule in all of our hearts as we joyfully depend on His amazing grace today.

Let's pray.

<<All to Us>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



REKOLD Jesus

Benediction

*"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O **King of the nations!** ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

Revelation 15:3b-4

Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Revelation 15:3b-4



Many Hands Make Light Work.

Thank You New Castle!

Please share a few minutes to stack chairs & ready the Family Center for weekly activities.

Recommended Resources on The Dawn of Kingdom Power:

- Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 52:10
- Proverbs 2:13; 4:18-19
- Luke 2:30-32
- John 1:4-5, 8-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- Ephesians 5:8-14
- Colossians 1:11-14
- Hebrews 2:3-4
- 1 Peter 2:9
- 1 John 1:7

- <http://multiplymovement.com/>
- <https://radical.net/articles/a-personal-disciple-making-plan/>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1368/is-this-the-age-of-miracles>

- *Follow Me*, David Platt & Francis Chan
- *Tell the Truth*, Will Metzger
- *Hard to Believe*, John MacArthur

Discussion Questions:

1. Read John 1:4-5, 3:19-21 and Matthew 4:14-16 (c.f. Isaiah 9:1-2). Why does Scripture refer to Jesus as light? (c.f. 2 Corinthians 4:6) What does it practically mean to share in the inheritance of the saints in light? (Colossians 1:12) Are you walking in the light of Christ (1 John 1:7)?
2. Read Matthew 4:17. How is Jesus' message different than John's in Matthew 3:2? Or Peter's message in Acts 2:38 and 3:19? Or Paul's message in Acts 17:30 and 20:20-21? Or from the church's message today?
3. Read Acts 5:31, 11:18, and 2 Timothy 2:25. (c.f. Ephesians 2:8-9). Are you responsible to repent? Do you have the ability within yourself to repent? Will God ever withhold repentance from anyone who sincerely seeks it? (c.f. John 2 Peter 3:9)
4. Read Matthew 4:19. Is it possible to be saved and not follow Christ? To what extent? How necessary is our participation in evangelism as Christ-followers? What Gospel hope is embedded in this verse to encourage our delighted obedience in making disciples?
5. Review the summary of Jesus' early earthly ministry in Matthew 4:23-25. What was God's purpose for miracles in the ministry of Jesus and the apostles (C.f. Hebrews 2:3-4)? Why aren't these kind of kingdom miracles common today?