

Matthew 4:12-17

1. Jesus, who is the light of the world, brings that light to men who are in darkness.
2. Light-: It brings the idea of illumination (knowledge and wisdom), exposure (our sins), and radiance (holiness) to our minds.
3. Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1,2. He is the great light seen by a people living in darkness, sitting in the shadow of death.
4. Matthew emphasizes here that it was after John the Baptist had been put in prison and Jesus had withdrawn into the region of Galilee.
5. Does this mean that Jesus did not do much until John was arrested? Did John the Baptist get arrested right after Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness? The answer to both questions is no.
6. We learn from the other gospel accounts that time passed, upwards to half a year, after Jesus' baptism that John was arrested, and Jesus had been doing many thing during that time. Why then does Matthew place the dawning of the light here and not right after Jesus baptism?
7. The answer is found in Matthew's purpose for writing. Matthew's goal is not to bring out everything about Jesus' life, but simply to demonstrate to a Jewish audience that Jesus is the promised Messiah.
8. Matthew demonstrates that fact in numerous ways including that John the Baptist fulfills the prophecies of the forerunner of Messiah.
9. John's arrest moves him from center stage of prophetic history and brings the focus on Jesus alone. It is at this time we find that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (John 4:1). It is even as John had said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). So it is here that Matthew concentrates on that point in time when Jesus becomes center stage of prophetic history including the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:1,2 of Messiah being a light to those in darkness.
10. It also answers a question that the early Christians asked :who was greater, Jesus or John the Baptist?
11. Jesus settles in Capernaum on the sea of Galilee (Mt 4:13) in the region of Zebulon and Naphtali.
12. From Matthew's perspective, the entire ministry prior to coming and settling in Capernaum was preliminary to the rise of Messiah taking the prominent position in calling the people back to following God.
13. Matthew 14 gives us the details of the reason John the Baptist was put in jail and gives the account of his martyrdom.
14. Matthew again uses the very arguments used to doubt Jesus being the Messiah to prove that He is Messiah.

15. "Repent" is a call made by both Jesus and John the Baptist. But John was prepared the "Kingdom" whereas a Jesus the Kingdom "has come".in other words is the kingdom is made greatest to the people ,Jesus is the kingdom.
16. Jesus was now present and He picked up the message John the Baptist had been proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
17. It was the same call given by the prophets throughout Israel's history. John the Baptist's message was a call for people to repent and get ready for the kingdom of heaven to come.
18. Prepare, Messiah is coming. In the early part of Jesus ministry we find Jesus repeating the same message as John including having his converts baptized as part of that preparation for the kingdom of heaven to come (John 4:1,2).
19. Messiah is here. You will not find a reference to the disciples of Jesus baptizing anyone again until Jesus completes His ministry of atonement and tells His disciples to baptize people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Matthew 28:19.
20. John's baptism of repentance was in preparation for the coming of Messiah. Messiah was now here. After Messiah completes His work on the cross, His – death, burial and resurrection, baptism will be practiced again with a whole new meaning and purpose.
21. It would no longer be the outward manifestation of a heart prepared for Messiah to come, but rather the identification of a person who belongs to Messiah Himself and is part of His spiritual kingdom.
22. The light now shines brighter than ever before. Messiah has come! And in His coming He brings hope to the nation.

Matthew 4:18-22

"Following Jesus"

1. Jesus' repeated call to people was to FOLLOW Him:
 - a. Here He commands both sets of brothers, Peter & Andrew, and James & John, to do the same thing: "Follow Me."
 - b. In Matthew 8 when some men were asking about being His disciples, He gave them that command: "Follow Me!"
 - c. Matthew 9, He finds Matthew the tax collector (probably the author of this book) and He told Him: "Follow Me!"
 - d. Matthew 10, Jesus is speaking about the meaning of being His disciple, and He says, "And he who does not take his cross and FOLLOW after Me is not worthy of Me."

- e. Matthew 19 Jesus meets the Rich Young Ruler and after testing him about his money, He tells him: "Come, follow Me."
 - f. at the end of the book of John, after Jesus had been crucified, and buried, and resurrected, and He appeared to His disciples, just before He left earth, He told Peter one last time: "Follow Me."
2. This is a consistent and vital part of what it means to be rightly related to the Lord. We are to follow Him.
 3. following Jesus does NOT mean:
 - a. just going to church.
 - b. just believing in who He is.
 - c. "like" Him.
 4. "Following Jesus" means more than just "liking His words" and enjoying reading what He has to say.
 5. so what does it mean to "follow" Jesus?
 - a. For those first disciples, "following" Jesus meant literally, physically, leaving where they were and following Him wherever He went. Peter & Andrew and James & John all did that.
 - b. 20 says Peter and Andrew "immediately ... LEFT their nets and followed Him." They literally left where they were and walked with Jesus.
 - c. 22 says James & John did the same thing: "Immediately they LEFT the boat and their father, and followed Him."
 6. They left their jobs, they left their nets, they left their families, they left their priorities, they left their plans, they left their appointments, they left all kinds of things, to follow Jesus.
 - a. It also means you leave behind your sin. Following Jesus doesn't mean that you can keep on doing whatever you were doing before, only now your sins are forgiven because you have Jesus to "clean up after you." No, really "following" Jesus includes leaving behind your sin to follow Him in a new and holy life.

Matthew 4:23-25

1. Jesus is going throughout all of Galilee. This does not mean that He went to every city, but it does mean that He covered the whole territory.
2. Jesus going throughout Galilee seeking to save those lost in the darkness of sin.
3. He is teaching them in the synagogues and explaining to them the meaning of the Old Testament.
 - a. He is teaching them the ways of God.

- b. He is proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom.
 - c. God was present among them.
 - d. He ministered compassion by healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
- 4. Jesus' message of hope spread. Hope concerning relief from the physical suffering they had, and hope in a message that Messiah was come.
- 5. It is no wonder then that the fame of Jesus spread beyond Galilee to all the surrounding regions.