

INVITATION

MATTHEW 4:12–25

STARTING OUT (MATT. 4:12–17)

1. Why did Jesus withdraw to Galilee after John was arrested?

Jesus withdrew to fulfill both practical and prophetic purposes. Theological implication: God's mission continues even amid opposition. Application: God guides us through difficulties into His purposes.

2. What is the significance of Jesus living in Capernaum?

It fulfilled Isaiah 9:1–2 and emphasized a ministry to both Jews and Gentiles. Theological implication: Jesus' mission is universal. Application: Christians must bring the gospel into spiritually dark and culturally diverse places.

3. What does it mean that people "in darkness" have "seen a great light"?

Darkness symbolizes sin and separation; Jesus is God's light. Theological implication:

Salvation begins with God's initiative. Application: Believers must reflect Christ's light.

4. What is the meaning of "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"?

God's rule has broken into history in Jesus. Theological implication: The kingdom is both present and future. Application: Repentance involves daily reorientation under Christ's rule.

CALLING OUT (MATT. 4:18–22)

1. Why does Jesus call fishermen as His first disciples?

They were ordinary workers, demonstrating God's choice of unlikely people. Theological implication: God uses the humble. Application: Availability to God matters more than status.

2. What does “fishers of men” mean?

Participation in Jesus’ mission to bring people into God’s kingdom. Theological implication: Evangelism is God’s work through His people. Application: Every Christian is called to witness.

3. Why did Peter and Andrew leave their nets immediately?

Jesus’ authority demanded decisive obedience. Theological implication: Discipleship requires radical commitment. Application: Following Jesus may require leaving behind competing priorities.

4. Why does Matthew emphasize that James and John left both nets and father?

To highlight the relational cost of discipleship. Theological implication: Allegiance to Jesus surpasses all other ties. Application: Following Christ may create relational challenges, but His call remains primary.

REACHING OUT (MATT. 4:23–25)

1. What were the three main components of Jesus' ministry?

Teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and healing diseases. Theological implication: Jesus brings holistic restoration. Application: Ministry today should combine teaching, evangelism, and compassion.

2. Why did Jesus' fame spread widely?

His authority over sickness and demons drew multitudes from many regions. Theological implication: Jesus' authority and compassion are universal. Application: The gospel is global and inclusive.

I. Me

a. Matthew 1

- i. Jesus is the Savior, the Messiah, the son of David, and the son of Abraham.
- ii. He is fully human and fully divine.

b. Matthew 2

- i. Jesus is the Sovereign over the wise and the Shepherd of the weak.
- ii. He inaugurates the new exodus, ends the mournful exile, and loves His fiercest enemies.

c. Matthew 3

- i. He is the Savior King and Righteous Judge.
- ii. He is filled with the Spirit and loved by the Father.

d. Matthew 4

- i. He is the new Adam and the True Israel.
- ii. He is the light of the world and the hope for all people.

e. Conclusion

- i. Jesus is worthy of far more than church attendance and casual association.
- ii. He is worthy of total abandonment and supreme adoration.

II. Follow

- a. Live with radical abandonment for His glory.
 - i. We leave behind all things.
 - ii. We live for one thing: to honor the King.
- b. Live with joyful dependence on His grace.
 - i. He takes the initiative to choose us.
 - ii. He provides the power to use us.
 - iii. He gets the glory through us.
- c. Live with faithful adherence to His person.
 - i. We are not casual listeners.
 - ii. We are not convinced listeners.
 - iii. We are committed learners and followers.
- d. Live with total trust in His authority.
 - i. He is the Master of every domain in our lives.
 - ii. He is the Lord of every detail in our lives.
- e. Live with urgent obedience to His mission.
 - i. Every follower of Jesus is a fisher of men.
 - ii. Every disciple is a disciple-maker.
 - iii. This is an unconventional plan that demands a universal response.