



**“Light Has Dawned”
Mathew 4:12-17
The Preparation of the King**

Introduction:

John 8:12b – “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 4:12 – “Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;”

Luke 3:19-20 – “But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and to all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all, that he locked up John in prison.”

1.) Jesus’ light leads us through the darkness.

Matthew 4:13 – “and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.”

Matthew 4:14 – “This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:”

2.) What’s true in the light is still true in the dark.

Psalm 23:1-2 – “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters.”

Psalm 23:4 – “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Matthew 4:15-16 – “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them light has dawned.”

2 Kings 15:29 – “In the days of Pekah King of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured, Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.”

3.) Darkness always eventually yields to light.

Isaiah 9:1 – “But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.”

Matthew 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Repent=Greek “metanoēō,” to change one’s mind.

4.) To enter the light, we must turn from the darkness of sin.

Kingdom=Greek “basileia,” the domain over which a king rules.

Acts 26:22-23 – “To this day I have had help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass; that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1.) What did you find new, helpful, or confusing about today’s message?
- 2.) What significance does light play in our world?
 - a. Why do you think Jesus chose to describe Himself as light?
- 3.) Why do we still face seasons of darkness even after coming to faith in Jesus?
- 4.) Is it easy or difficult for you to remember the light when you are in a dark season?
- 5.) How would you explain “repentance” in your own words?
- 6.) How can God use you to spread His Kingdom?