

BACK TO THE BEGINNING
ROCKY RIVER CHURCH – PRE-SERIES SERMON – AUGUST 2, 2026
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FOCUS TEXT – MATTHEW 4:12–17

¹²When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee.
¹³He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali,
beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River,
in Galilee where so many Gentiles live,
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light.
And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow,
a light has shined.”

¹⁷From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

What is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is the active rule and reign of God.

Where is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is located wherever Jesus is King – wherever Jesus reigns – wherever Jesus is in control. The Kingdom of God is wherever the will of God is done.

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” -Matthew 6:10

FOUR KINGDOM COMMITMENTS:

#1. Wake up to a _____ New Reality_____.

“The people living in darkness have seen a great light.” -Isaiah 9:2

#2. Lay down your _____ Rival Kingdom_____.

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” -Matthew 4:17b

The word **“REPENT”** means changing your mind in a way that changes your direction. Repentance is a spiritual U-turn.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” -Psalm 46:10

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” -Proverbs 3:5-6

#3. Live by _____ The Values _____ of King Jesus.

Jesus said, *“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” -Luke 9:23*

#4. Join _____ The Mission _____ of King Jesus.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” -Matthew 6:33

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” -1 John 3:16

The Kingdom of God advances every time a follower of Jesus says:

“Lord, use me.”

“Use my gifts.”

“Use my resources.”

“Use my experiences.”

“Use even the painful parts of my story.”

“Use my life to help someone see Jesus.”

NEXT SUNDAY AT ROCKY RIVER CHURCH: BACK TO THE BASICS
BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON THE SOLID ROCK OF JESUS

