

A Great Light Has Dawned  
Sermon Notes  
February 20, 2022  
Matthew 4:12-17  
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**Jesus goes to unlikely places**

**Jesus brings unbelievable light**

**Jesus establishes an unshakeable kingdom**

**Matthew 4:12–17 ESV**

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“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.”

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

**Psalm 23 ESV**

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name’s sake.  
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.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever.

### **Psalm 139:12 ESV**

even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
or darkness is as light with you.

### **John 1:4 ESV**

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

### **Romans 2:3–4 ESV**

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

### **Matthew 5:14–16 ESV**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**He won’t stop until his kingdom is established in every single region of our hearts.**

## **Lamentations 3:22–23 ESV**

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.

### **Grow Group questions**

How does Johns arrest remind us of our own limits in life? What might we learn about our lives by reflecting on Johns?

What do we learn about the promises of God from the fulfillment of prophecy in Scripture? How have you seen Gods promises fulfilled in your life? Where are areas you are still waiting for God to fulfill his Word to you? How might your grow group come alongside you in your waiting?

What is encouraging to you about where Jesus began his public ministry? What do we learn about Jesus in his choice of where to begin his ministry? What do we learn about ourselves when we reflect on Jesus going to unlikely places?

How do we see the light of Jesus reflected in the gospels? Where do you see Jesus light reflected in the world today? In who do you currently see the light of Christ shine brightly?

What kind of Kingdom did 1st Century jewish people expect the messiah to bring? What was different about the Kingdom Jesus was establishing?

What kind of Kingdom do you expect Jesus to bring today? How could he use you or how is he using you to continue to establish His kingdom?

How is repentance truly the doorway into the kingdom? Are there areas in your life God might currently be offering you the gift of repentance? Is there anything you need to stop doing? Is there anything God might be calling you to start doing?

End your group time by praying for one another