



Sermon Discussion Guide

August 2, 2026

Refresh

Read Matthew 4:12-17 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss

John the Baptist faithfully served God, yet his public ministry ended in imprisonment. What does John's experience teach us about how we should define faithfulness and success in the Christian life?

James 4:13-15 reminds us to hold our plans with an "if the Lord wills" mindset. What is the difference between wise planning and trying to control our future? Why are we often tempted to try to control things ourselves?

Jesus left the familiarity of Nazareth and established His ministry in strategic Capernaum. How should the mission of making disciples influence decisions about where we live, work, serve, or invest our time?

Pastor Mark challenged us to consider whether God might be calling us to "move to Capernaum" metaphorically or perhaps, even literally. What comforts, routines, or fears tend to keep Christians from going where the gospel is most needed? How can we cultivate our hearts to embrace the mission, regardless of the personal cost?

Matthew describes Galilee as a place of darkness where a great light has dawned (Matt. 4:15-16). What does Jesus' choice to minister in "Galilee of the Gentiles" reveal about His heart for outsiders, overlooked people, and the nations? How should this shape how believers think about the needs of these types of people?

John and Jesus preached the same message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2; 4:17). What does biblical repentance entail, and why must it remain central to both the gospel we proclaim to unbelievers and the entirety of the Christian life?