

# MATTHEW 4:12-17

## 3 STEPS CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH MOVING FORWARD



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# CONTEXT

- Book written by Matthew (former tax collector) (50-60 AD)
- Written to Jewish audience; show evidence Jesus is the Messiah
- Here, Jesus begins ministry in Galilee; area around Sea of Galilee
- Jesus serving, healing, speaking: moving to advance Kingdom of God/Heaven

# ACTING IN ACCORD WITH GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES

- (v.12) Matthew shows key turning point; Jesus moving according to plan of God
- John the Baptist, put in prison; spoke out against Herod marrying his brother's wife who was also technically his niece
- Jesus leaves Nazareth; moves to town of Capernaum, north part of Sea of Galilee
- Time moving and Jesus fulfilling ministry; taking opportunity to move Kingdom forward; acting in step with Holy Spirit

- John 12:32, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

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- Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”



# FOCUSING ON GOD'S PROMISES

- (vv.13-16) Capernaum becomes Jesus' base of operations in Galilee
- Matthew points to evidence Jesus is Messiah; this promise given to Isaiah 700 years before it happened; quotes Isaiah 9:1-2
- Isaiah proclaimed a great Light would come and lead people out of darkness; Matthew shows Jesus is the Light!
- God's Word will always come to pass; can trust



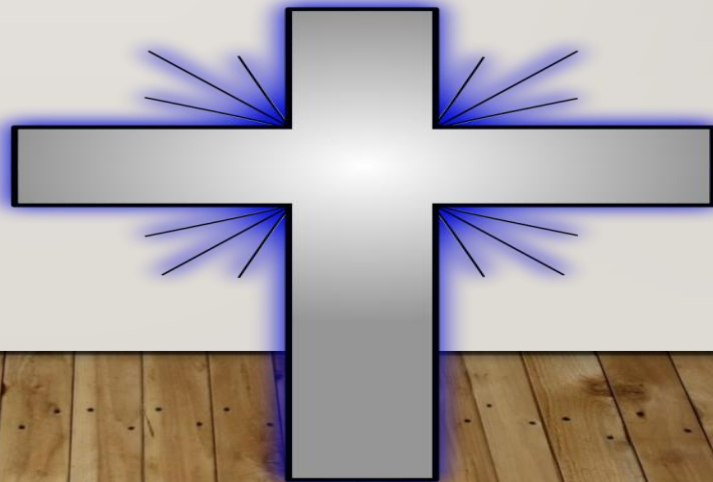
- John 12:46, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”
- Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”



# COMMUNICATING A CHRIST-CENTERED MESSAGE

- Matthew shares emphasis of Jesus' speaking; moved Kingdom with actions and words
- Foundation; repentance & kingdom arriving
- Preaching – “communicating divine truth”
- Repentance – “a change in the mind that leads to a change in behavior”
- Kingdom of heaven/God – “Jesus’ residence, rule, and reign”

- Rom. 14:17, “...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- I Corinthians 6:9-11
- Must be diligent to preach whole gospel; Jesus is focus and must be center; the Cross is to be very prominent







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