



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Matthew 4:12–16

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶ 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.”



Matthew 4:17

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali...



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

➤ To avoid an early arrest

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

➤ To avoid an early arrest

Matthew 14:1–2: ¹ At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus, ² and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him.”



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

➤ To avoid an early arrest

Matthew 16:13–14: ¹³ ...he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist...”



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

➤ **To block out hometown rejection**

¹³ And leaving Nazareth...



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

- **To establish his new ministry headquarters**

¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea...



1. Jesus makes a strategic move (4:12–13)

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali...



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ 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.”



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

John 7:41–43: ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from **Galilee**? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from **Bethlehem**, the village where David was?” ⁴³ So there was a **division** among the people over him.



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

Isaiah 9:1–2: ¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

2 Kings 15:29: Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured... Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

➤ Jesus came to seek the lost.

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ 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.”



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

- **Jesus came to seek the lost.**

Matthew 24:14: And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to **all nations**, and then the end will come.



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

➤ Jesus came to seek the lost.

Matthew 28:19–20: ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

➤ Jesus came to love the least.

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ 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.”



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

➤ Jesus came to retake his land.

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ 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.”



2. Jesus moves in among the lost and the least (4:14–16)

➤ **Jesus came to retake his land.**

Romans 8:21: ...the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.



3. Jesus calls us into the light (4:17)

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



3. Jesus calls us into the light (4:17)

Matthew 3:1–2: ¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”



3. Jesus calls us into the light (4:17)

“Get your lives in order, for God’s kingdom is approaching... Only those who submit to God’s reign in advance will be ready when he comes to rule the whole world.”

— Craig Keener



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW