

Partners in the King’s Work

Matthew 4:13-17



Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, along the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.*

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Matthew 4:18-22

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Study Notes



Go around your Life Group and have each person tell (1) how many years they've lived in Austin, (2) one thing they like about living in Austin, and (3) one thing they wish was different about life here.

Read Matthew 4:13-17.

These verses report where Jesus began to minister. Tom compared Austin to the "Galilee of the Gentiles" in these verses. Rate Austin in each category below, and discuss your ratings with the group.

- Educated9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Uneducated: _____
- Diverse9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Homogeneous: _____
- Scenic9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Ugly: _____
- Tolerant9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Intolerant: _____
- Affluent9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Poor : _____
- Cosmopolitan ...9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Backwater: _____
- Spiritual9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1..... Secular: _____

Jesus' ministry is compared to "light" coming upon people living in "darkness" (Matthew 4:16). How is "darkness" a good description of lostness? How is "light" a good description for the gospel?

Immediately after Jesus began his ministry (Matthew 4:13-17), he enlisted partners (Matthew 4:18-22). Read Matthew 4:18-22 and then answer the following questions:

- ❖ In verse 19, to what kind of work did Jesus compare his gospel ministry?
- ❖ List at least 5 ways that gospel ministry is like fishing.
- ❖ In verse 20, how long did it take them to decide to become partners in the King's work?
- ❖ Today, why would God look for partners for his gospel work? Few of us would say it's because he's helpless without us. So, why does he want us involved with him?

Review the six steps we've studied in the previous week. Complete each blank below and describe the action:

I _____ your THEMs
N _____ a relationship with THEM
V _____ their spiritual condition
I _____ THEM with your church family
T _____ THEM your story
E _____ THEM to cross the line of faith

In the sermon, you heard six Hillcrest members talk about how they've tried to implement these six steps. At the end of this series, is there a particular step that you believe God is calling you to take? What have you done (or what do you plan to do) to take this step?

Read John 4:35 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ What command did Jesus give here?
- ❖ What does it mean today?
- ❖ Which step in the INVITE acronym does it apply to?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ What two things did Paul share with the Thessalonians?
- ❖ What are some practical ways we can share life with THEM?
- ❖ Which step in the INVITE acronym does this verse apply to?

Lots are lost, but in different ways. Which INVITE step tells us we need to investigate how our THEM is lost? Why is this important?

Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ Who did Paul assume would be present?
- ❖ Which step in the INVITE acronym does this verse apply to?
- ❖ What are some practical ways you can involve THEM with your church family?

Read Acts 4:20 and answer the following questions:

- ❖ What is the most powerful evangelism tool you have?
- ❖ Which step in the INVITE acronym does this verse apply to?
- ❖ Have you written your story at www.hillcrest.church/mystory/?

The final step in the INVITE strategy is to “Encourage THEM to cross the line of faith.” When we share the gospel, what truths need to be included?

As you make your group’s prayer list today, include the names of your THEMs, and ask God to help you take whatever ***next step*** in the INVITE strategy you need to take with THEM.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests