

Spring 2019!

Life Group Quarter

Week 7

Message Date 5/19/19

MY STORY

- 1) What is your favorite characteristic about Jesus and why?
- 2) What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

The Goal

Last week we unpacked the similarities between John the Baptist and Jesus' early teachings. We also unpacked when Jesus called His first disciples. This week we will unpack these passages a little further and finish up the verses in Chapter 4. The Goal this week is to help our people come to a fuller knowledge of how to "fish for men" and what it means to follow.

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 4:17-25 (ESV)

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

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.ⁱ

- 4) How does repentance help clear our vision in our relationship with Christ?

This is a running theme of the last three weeks of our study and Sunday's message. Repentance brings better understanding of God's heart for me and others. It helps me love others better because we don't have the cloud of shame and guilt hanging over us. It clears our vision.

- 5) What does it mean for the kingdom of heaven to be at hand?

A Note from *Faithlife Study Bible*

A kingdom is a place where someone has rule or governance. The same is true of the kingdom of God. Jesus said in His prayer: "May your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10). The kingdom of God is where God's will is carried out.ⁱⁱ

- 6) Jesus' call to the first disciples had a radical response. They left their jobs and father and followed Jesus. In what ways has your response to following Jesus been radical?
- 7) How are you "fishing for men"?
- 8) Who in your life are you praying for the opportunity to share Jesus with?

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 4:23-25 (NLT)

²³ Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ²⁴ News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.ⁱⁱⁱ

- 9) What was Jesus announcing?

[The Good News about the Kingdom.](#)

- 10) In verse 23 some translations say "Gospel". The NLT says "Good News"; what does this mean?

[Forgiveness for sins is available through repentance, and God's will \(His Kingdom\) is arriving on earth through Jesus. This simple statement includes eternal life with God in heaven. That is what is implied by the kingdom of God. Furthermore, the death and resurrection of Jesus are what made forgiveness possible through repentance. That is all encapsulated in His statement "repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."](#)

- 11) How does a person normally respond to good news? (Not referring to the gospel, just good news in general.)

- 12) If the Good News is forgiveness being available through repentance and God's Kingdom arriving here on earth, why is it difficult for many to share?

[Many people don't understand the simple message of the gospel. They think it's about checking off a list of do's and don'ts and not about a relationship with Jesus.](#)

- 13) In verse 23 what else was Jesus doing?

[He healed every kind of disease and illness.](#)

- 14) How did the crowds respond to Jesus because of the healings?

[Word about Him spread and people from all over brought Him the sick and suffering.](#)

- 15) How would you have responded if you lived during His day and heard about Jesus healing people?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read all of Matthew Chapter 4 and meditate on the following questions.

- 16) Why is the Gospel good news?
- 17) Who can you be praying for to have an opportunity to share the gospel with?
- 18) How are the temptations Jesus faced an encouragement to your personal journey?
- 19) How does repentance bring hope to you personally?

ⁱ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 4:17–22.

ⁱⁱ Mike Goldsworthy, “The Kingdom of God: Already but Not Yet,” in *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016).

ⁱⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 4:23–25.