

## Sunday, January 22, 2023

### 3 Epiphany, Year A

#### **MATTHEW 4:12–23**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — <sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>18</sup>As he walked 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. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. <sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

#### **OPEN**

- When did you leave home to be “on your own” for the first time?
- In what part of your life are you experiencing a “sunrise”? A sunset?

#### **DIG**

- How does Jesus react to John’s imprisonment?
- How had they been “living in darkness” (v. 16)? What was Jesus’ message? What is the relation between repentance, the kingdom of God and light?
- What invitations does Jesus give to these fishermen? What seems unusual about their response? What prior knowledge of Jesus do you think they had (v 13-17)? How might Zebedee have felt (v 22)?

#### **REFLECT**

- How has coming to know Jesus been like moving from darkness to light for you?
- In what ways does God’s kingdom seem “now” for you? In what ways does it seem “not yet”?
- Spiritually, are you still preparing the nets? Leaving the boat? Following hard after Jesus? Feeling left behind?