

Sunday, January 22, 2023
3 Epiphany, Year A

MATTHEW 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — ¹⁶the 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." ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸As 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. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As 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. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus 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?