

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## Follow Me

Matthew 4:12-25

Previously:

- **Brood of Vipers and Son of God**
- **Led Up by the Spirit**
- *“Luther’s remark stands true, that prayer, meditation, and temptation, are the three best instructors of the gospel minister.” (Spurgeon)*
- **Attacked**
  - **who he was “Son of God”**
  - **What he was - The Bread of Life**
  - **His life surrendered and death at the cross - throw himself down**
  - **The fruit of his obedience to death and the resurrection - Name Above All Names, All people and Kings of All Time worship him - not just at that moment**

**Where are you going?**

Maybe for lunch later...

In life? What is the path you’re on?

***Hard to change paths*** - careers, life choices, harder to change course later in life

*Inigo Montoya:*

*Is very strange. I have been in the revenge business so long, now that it's over, I don't know what to do with the rest of my life.*

*Westley:*

*Have you ever considered piracy? You'd make a wonderful Dread Pirate Roberts.*

**We’re all on a path**

- Set by us, our parents, our choices, maybe those we’re slaves to
- *The abortion feeling like i was on autopilot being led away*
- Maybe in our control, maybe out of our control
- Some dream, some desire at the helm - but it’s not where you want to be, not where you’d thought you’d end up by now. Maybe it is, and it’s not fulfilling or it is fulfilling

**There is a greater path for your life - even if you’re on the right one - to stop and ask, am I really following Jesus? Maybe he led me here, but is he still here? Is he leading me to go on?**

**Maybe you’re not, you’ve forgotten the way.**

**Revelation 2:4-5a/d NKJV - "Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love. "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first**

works...repent.”

**John 14:2-6 NKJV - "In My Father's house are many mansions; if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, [there] you may be also. "And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**[Pray]**

## **4:12-17**

**John in Prison** - why? The Pharisees wouldn't stand for what he said or what he was doing

*John talks about things that happened during this period, Matthew does not*

**Evil may silence a voice, but it cannot prevent the proclamation of the Word. If John is imprisoned, then Jesus takes up the message.” (Morgan)**

### **Leaves Galilee for Capernaum**

**Galilee** - fertile & highly populated, 3 million people

**Good soil for growing - but not good soil spiritually**

*Northeast, D.C., America...*

**Capernaum** - Matthew lived there, Peter had a house there

Not the direction one would assume for a successful ministry

He didn't go for the big crowds, the big population centers to start

### **Seems very opposite to modern church planting and ministry**

Try and get a christian concert here...we don't meet the population goals. It's not worth their time.

### **Money and ministry should not be conflated -**

The woman at the well was during this time, not noted here

Jesus went out of his way to reach this poor lady, outcast socially and hereditarily

And it still bears fruit today

### **Where are we going? What do we view as an opportunity?**

Does it have to be popular? Does it have to be tried-and-true? Does it have to be a certain number or amount or fame for us to consider it?

**God has always been about the people as individuals - not the numbers.**

David numbered the people - when he was explicitly not to - and God punished him ... and the people ... for it

**Everything in our world today is about numbers - the analytics - it's how decisions are made. And it's always at the expense of the people. Of the soul of something. Let's see that ministering to the "small" is greater than to the large**

*A large amount given to a small number will yield more than a little given to a lot*

*Let the little children come to Me Matthew 19:14*

*Do not despise the day of small things Zech 4:10*

### **That it might be fulfilled**

Everything Jesus did fulfilled God's word - and it wasn't out of some rote obedience  
It was who he was. His decisions following God were fruitful and in line with the Word

### **How do we make our decisions?**

*Toothpaste back in the day*

Logos & rhema - move when you have a word

*Multi-faceted blessings in obedience*

### **The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light**

Sad that these people, so close to Jerusalem, in the Kingdom of God - Israel - where sitting in darkness.

Where was the light? Why was it being hidden from the people?

**Jesus picks up John's mantle and message - Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**

### **Preach**

*the herald was the man who brought a message direct from the king." (Barclay)*

**John set the stage - but Jesus' message at the core - was the same.**

The gospel, the fruit thereof, always starts with repentance

Personally, corporately in church, and in the nation.

**Without repentance**, we personally, the church corporately, and the nation at large - cannot, and will not be saved.

(Touch on this)

*For the kingdom of heaven is at hand: Some people make elaborate distinctions between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God. There actually seems to be no difference at all, especially in light of the Jewish custom of often not even naming God directly, but referring to Him by the place where He lives heaven — a custom that Matthew, a Jew writing to Jews, often employs.*

## :18-22

### Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee

Where do you like to walk? I imagine Jesus liked walking by the beach. We see him there multiple times in the scriptures.

He also likes the mountains, too.

I like the mountains

*Ash beach girl to mountain girl*

### He comes across brothers Simon Peter and Andrew

He knew they were there

This was not the first time Jesus met these men, and other gospels describe previous encounters (John 1:35-42 and Luke 5:3), but this is when Jesus called them to leave their professions and follow Him with a full-time commitment.

They were busy in a lawful occupation when he called them to be ministers: our Lord does not call idlers but *fishers*.” (Spurgeon)

- Saul was looking for his father’s donkeys.
- David was keeping his father’s sheep.
- The shepherds were guarding their flocks.
- Amos was farming in Tekoa.
- Matthew was working at the tax collector’s table.
- Moses was tending his father-in-law’s flock.
- Gideon was threshing wheat

Rabbinical learning

Apprenticeship

### Family business, making their living

But they weren’t happy. They weren’t settled. **They were looking for more.**

How do I know?

They immediately left it all to follow Jesus - someone maybe they had heard about -

**Their hearts were ready to follow -**

Even if they didn't understand all it would mean or take to do so yet

Simon Peter and Andrew - brothers - left their own business

James and John left their business - and their father

**They left their boat and their father**

Both was a big deal, but personally and culturally this was a bigger deal.

Their father "needed" them to do the work.

But like Jesus, they wanted to be about their heavenly father's business

Jesus family probably "needed" him to.

*We might not understand this so much as we've had so much affluence in our society*

*But times are changing when we'll all need each other - especially in our families - to make ends meet*

Family was important. We see Jesus being mocked by his family at some point, too.

**But the call of God is bigger than the call of family. Or any need. A need is not the call. A call will however, answer a need.**

**They immediately left**

Means immediately. Not later. Not when they were done fixing the nets. Not tomorrow. Not when they had money in the bank. Not after talking it over. Their hearts were ready. They heard the call. They immediately went.

**Don't wait for tomorrow to do what is right today.**

**Righteousness today won't be righteousness tomorrow.**

**If God is calling you, sure, make sure it's him, but don't delay. Plan and prepare where prudent, but go when God calls you to go.**

Your job doesn't need you

Your family will be OK without you

You will be OK without those safety nets left behind

**Whatever God is calling you to do...go, follow Him.**

**You won't regret following him today.**

**But you will regret not following him tomorrow.**

**He called them**

I love this - it's so personal. So intimate. So audible. So direct.

It's not a command. It's not a burden. It's a joy. It's a friendship. It's a love like no other.

It's an adventure. It's about the journey - not where they are going, but who they are going with.

*Elisha always willing to go with me anywhere. She never asks "where" before she makes her decision. She might be curious, but she says she doesn't care as long as it's with me. This makes me want to do even more fun things with her. But most of all, it just shows me how she loves me.*

**The same is with God. May we be willing to go anywhere, so much so, that we don't say where and calculate the personal blessing or benefit or cost, we just get up and go with Him because nothing else matters.**

## **:23-25**

**Teaching was Jesus' main ministry - the rest were fruits thereof, to prove the teaching in a way, to minister to those who heard, to cultivate the soil**

Healing is good - but what good is it if the soul isn't healed?

**Luke 5:17-26 NKJV - Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was [present] to heal them. Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with [his] bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus. When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"**

**Has our soil been cultivated? Does it fall on good ground?**

**Are we just looking for healing? For full wallets and full bellies?**

**Or are are concerns deeper than that.**

*True repentance is concerned about the deeper needs. God I need your forgiveness. That's the provision we're looking for when we're truly repentant - God's kingdom, not our own. God's glory, not our wealth.*

### **Jesus went everywhere**

People heard, and they sent all the sick - of course people are looking for physical healing and freedom from suffering, and Jesus was happy to oblige...**but he had so much more for them. If they'd but follow.**

**When we come to God, and he answers our need, do we scurry away with just that answer? Or does it cause us to come closer, to find out what he's really about - now that the thing that was distracting us was mended.**

**We often miss the deeper things when the shallower are answered  
That might be why God hasn't answered your prayer - he's got something more important for you to be focused on. Him.**

Great multitudes followed him.

Figuratively and literally. Wouldn't you?

We follow people on social media, wear sports jerseys and company logos, why wouldn't we be so amped to follow Jesus around?

### **We take these healings and things for granted**

- All kinds of sickness (word like therapy) to heal, cure, restore to health
- All kinds of diseases (word like disease) infirmity, debility, bodily weakness, sickness
- Diseases and torments (different disease word), torments (pains of a disease, those in hell after death) - chronic ailments, painful things
- Demon possessed - spiritual ailments (modern psychology can't explain a lot - and I'm sure a lot is this)
- Epileptics, paralytics - deep brain and nerve damaged things that couldn't be fixed

### **He had power over it all - and he still does today**

I think we miss it because we tend to run to the doctor first (and I'm glad we have doctors and medicines) but they're not God.

### **There are no bad side effects when Jesus heals**

We're put off from false healers - those who would elevate healing above all else as a mark of their own holiness- this isn't from God.

We miss these things - but many parts of the world God uses these **to bring glory to his name and attention to His word**

**Jesus ultimately is the Word of God. Yes, he heals, but His Word is above even his famous healing name.**

**The Word is what ultimately heals.**

**Ephesians 5:25-27 NKJV - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

**Hebrews 4:12**

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

**If you need healing, if you need direction - spend time in the Word**

It will wash you. It will show you what really needs healing. What really needs attention. What really is important.

**And you'll hear God's voice - the voice of The King - calling you - saying**

**Matthew 4:19 NKJV - Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."**