

**A Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew
September 29, 7:00 p.m. in Room 6 and Zoom**

WEEK FOUR – “Jesus’ Ministry” (Matthew 4:12-25)

This week we move from the prologue to the start of Jesus’ public ministry. In addition to the Matthew passage, read Isaiah 9 and Isaiah 42 for some prophetic hints about Jesus’ mission and purpose.

1. Why do you suppose John’s arrest caused Jesus to “withdraw to Galilee?”
2. In your estimation, what does this passage say about Jesus’ identity and commission?
3. How does the image of light and darkness sum up Jesus’ commission in light of what we read in the prologue material (genealogy and Jesus’ relation to John the Baptizer)?
4. What does, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” mean?
5. Who are Peter and Andrew, and what does Jesus calling them to follow him have to do with “the kingdom of heaven?”
6. Exactly how does one “fish for people” and what does one do with them when they are “caught?”
7. How does the church today answer the challenge to repent and be fishers of people?
8. What do you think the “kingdom” or “empire” of God looks like in real-life practical terms?
9. Why is Jesus in conflict with Rome’s empire (kingdoms of the earth)?
10. How is God’s agenda different than the Romans’ agenda?