

## **Jesus Begins to Make Disciples and Change Lives #2 / Matthew 4:12-22**

*As you begin, please take some time for silent, heart-opening prayer... followed by the slow reading of the following passage. Pause after the reading for people to highlight the lines, phrases or words which catch interest. Then read the text slowly again... and move on to answer the suggested questions....*

### **Matthew 4:12-22 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

#### **Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee**

<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> ðLand of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentilesð  
<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.ð

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ðRepent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.ð

#### **Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<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 seað for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, ðFollow me, and I will make you fish for people.ð <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.

#### **Suggested Questions:**

1. What line, phrases or word does the Spirit seem to be lifting up for you from this reading? Why might these words be important to you now?
2. Matthew understands that Jesus' ascent to ministry is the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:1-21. What seems to be the significance that the text assigns to His coming forth?
3. Jesus begins the spiritual formation of the disciples with general preaching on what theme (MT 4:17)? What do you think He may have meant by this then? And how might you preach this message now?

(over)

4. Jesus continues Spiritual Formation 101 as He invites four people into a "following life" (Mt. 4:19-22).
  - a. What was distinctive about a "following life" then?
  - b. What is your understanding of how one "follows" Christ now?
  
5. What has the Holy Spirit been saying to you through the reading and discussion of this text?
  
  
6. What do you sense is Christ's invitation to you in this Gospel reading?

*Please close this time of Dwelling in the Word with silent reflection and prayer.*