

Sermon Study Guide – January 22nd, 2023

Today's Focus: "The Unavoidable Visibility of Light"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Put today's theme into your own words. What does it mean? Is it the type of thing that needs to be said or not?
- ◆ The Bible often uses the idea of light to describe what we receive from God and from Christ. How is Jesus "unavoidably visible"? Is it true in our lives as his followers?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 4:12-23

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions as you follow the sermon...

1. How readily were people drawn to Jesus? How was he like light?
2. What changed over time that drove people away from Jesus' light? How did it put them (and how does it put us) into danger?
3. What kind of "light" does Jesus bring to combat sin's "darkness"?
4. How is Jesus like the sun? How are we like the moon?
5. Why/how is it proper to say that we *need* good works?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Prov. 4:18-27, 1 Jn. 2:3-11

Thursday: Revelation 21-22

Tuesday: John 1:1-18

Friday: *review* Matthew 4:12-23

Wednesday: Malachi 3-4

Saturday: Matthew 5:1-16