

Matthew 4:12-25

12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

16 the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

18 While walking 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. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I

will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Also read:
Isaiah 9:1-7

Community Group Study 23 May 2010



Introduction

What is God like? As mighty God He is able to do all things and is sovereign over all. As counselor he is wise, intimate and works for our good. As Father He loves us and defends us.

The nature of His kingdom is then an expression of the nature of the King. As God is spirit, the kingdom is not physical, but appears as God's character overtakes our own nature in our hearts.

The kingdom of heaven is in the "no" and the "not yet". It is here now because the work of Jesus is finished and the power of sin and death is broken.

It is "not yet" because the effects of the work are not yet complete, awaiting the second coming of our Saviour.

Sin should disgust us because it is the antithesis of God. To realize the real offence of sin, we must ask God to come and have His way in us and change our nature to His own.

Discussion

- >>What aspects of God's person do we reflect?
- >>How can we make God's commands into part of our character?
- >>Where is the kingdom of God?

Explanation

- >>How were we enemies of God before?
- >>What has God done to remove His enemies?
- >>When we pray for God to change things on earth by His power, why does it not happen sometimes?

Application

- >>How can we best build the kingdom of God?
- >>What can we change about our expectations of God to see the full power of the Spirit moving in our world today?
- >>What is the fruit of the gospel in our lives today?