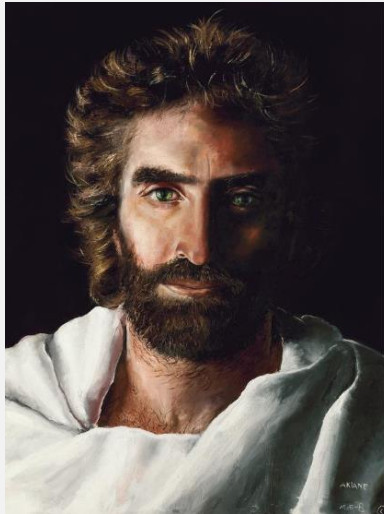


Third Sunday After the Epiphany – 2023
Saturday, 1/21 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/22 at 9:00



What are
YOU Doing
with JESUS?

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Text: Matthew 4:12-25 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends: **JESUS is the key!** If you reject Him, *heaven is locked for you*. But if, *by God's grace*, you know Him, *heaven is open for you*. What are YOU doing with JESUS?

Who is JESUS? God's Son – ♦promised to Adam and Eve, ♦clothed in flesh through the Virgin Mary, ♦announced by angels, and ♦visited by shepherds and wisemen!

Then, *when the time was just right*, JESUS was ♦anointed by God the Father, ♦accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and ♦tempted by the devil, **yet He never sinned!**

Then, *returning to Nazareth where He grew up*, JESUS read the Scriptures and identified Himself as the Promised Messiah. What did those people do with JESUS? They tried to murder Him ☹️. **Knowing that JESUS is YOUR key for YOUR fabulous eternity**, what are YOU doing with JESUS?

Matthew 4:12 follows JESUS' rejection in Nazareth.

1. **The OT Connection:** ¹² Now when Jesus heard that John [the Baptizer] had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea [of Galilee], in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ *This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet [in Isaiah 9:1-4]:* ¹⁵ **“THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES--** ¹⁶ **“THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”**

a. John Arrested: John fulfilled His purpose – preparing the way for **JESUS**; *then the spotlight turned to JESUS!*

b. Settled in Capernaum:

- i. **JESUS** fulfilled prophecy by settling there.
- ii. For all who are in the darkness of sin, **JESUS, the True Light of the world**, is the answer!
- iii. Since Capernaum was on the shore of the sea of Galilee, **JESUS** could easily reach many people on foot or by boat – location, location, location...

2. **The Reason to Repent:** ¹⁷ **From that time [after settling in Capernaum] Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** // If this life is all there



is – *then there is NO NEED to repent. But that is NOT true!* This life is only *a drop in the bucket* in comparison to the eternity that is coming for **EVERYONE!**

- a. Eternity has two locations: One is **super-wonderful** – *gladly received as God’s gift*; the other one is **super-horrible** – *acquired after persistent rejection of JESUS*.
- b. Why Repent? Repentance is the only way to enter God’s **super-wonderful** eternity.
- c. What is Repentance?
 - i. ▶ Admitting we are helpless to save ourselves, ▶ mourning over our sin-causing separation (Mt. 5:4), and ▶ trusting in Jesus for eternal life.
 - ii. *When such things are true, we will ☞hunger for God’s word, ☞believe God’s word, and ☞seek to live-out God’s word in our daily lives.*

3. **Gathering Disciples:**

- a. Peter and Andrew: From [John 1:35-42](#), we know that Peter and Andrew had previously become acquainted with JESUS: **¹⁸ Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was 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.** // Immediately... followed – Why? The H.S. had enabled Peter and Andrew to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. So, ▶ understanding Jesus’ call, ▶ they immediately left and followed! God has good works to do for EVERY believer. How are YOU responding to His call? ☞Stubbornly ignoring or ☞faithfully following.
- b. James and John: From [Luke 5:1-11](#), we know that prior to Jesus’ call, Peter, Andrew, James, and John had

experienced a miraculous catch of fish. Now the Bible says: ²¹ **Going on from [calling Peter and Andrew] 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.** // Again, the H.S. was certainly at work! The H.S. *is like a holy fire*; we should NEVER try to PUT OUT that fire *but respond with willing obedience.*

4. **Teaching, Proclaiming, Healing:** ²³ **Jesus was going throughout all Galilee [with His disciples], teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel [good news] of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.** // What did Jesus teach? God's truth! What is the good news? All who repent and believe will be saved! What did Jesus heal? Everything! Then what happened?

5. **Much Healing:** ²⁴ **The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.** // *All of them!*

6. **Large Crowds:** ²⁵ **Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan [Perea].** // *Multitudes heard and followed!* What are YOU doing with JESUS?

Let Us Pray: Dear H.S.: Keep us sorry, saved, & honoring God!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

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