



"It falls to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy; to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours."

President Barack Obama

## The King & The Kingdom

"The Gospel of Matthew is about Jesus, the promised King who has come to usher in the Kingdom of God, to convince both Jews and Gentiles that He is the Messiah, the Son of God and to strengthen believers to be the radical community of the King in their calling to make disciples of all nations in the face of opposition."

# Matthew 4:12-25

"12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup> 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— <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan."









## 1) The Repentance of the Gospel:

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

"Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession. ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#### 2) The Target of the Gospel:

"And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

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

the people dwelling in darkness

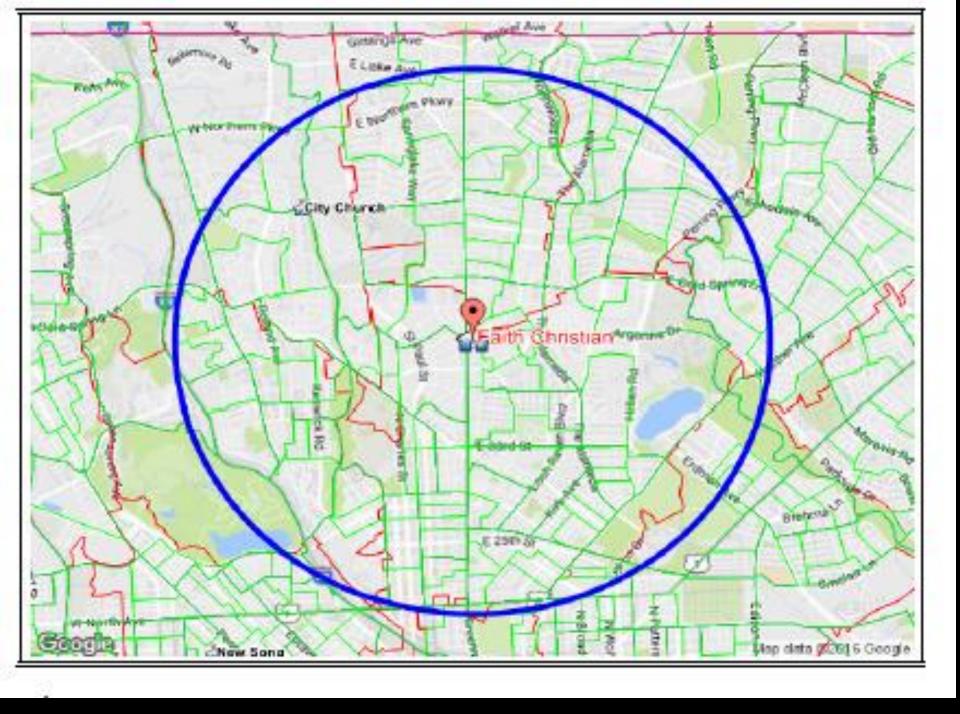
have seen a great light,

and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." Vs 13-17









"From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us." Acts 17:26,27

### 3) The Summons of the Gospel:

"And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him." Vs 19

## 4) The Proclamation of the Gospel:

"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." Vs 23

"Jesus came preaching that he might defeat all ignorance. He came teaching that he might defeat all misunderstandings. He came healing that he might defeat all pain. We, too, must proclaim our certainties;... be ready to explain our faith; we, too, must turn the ideal into action and into deeds."

William Barclay

We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.

Dr. Martin Luther King

