

Brandon Phillips

The King and His Glory / Matthew 4:12-17

Jesus begins His ministry

Pre-Sermon Comments

Mother god, creator god, loving god, holy god, take this your servant made from dust and connect it with the raw materials of stardust to speak in this moment

The entire skit is about a young princess (the Church) falling prey to demons and their dragon lord (Satan), so a prince (Jesus) is sent to save her but ends up dying, so the various demons (personified as pride, greed, lust, etc.) end up celebrating. The demons end up doing multiple numbers on stage for over 20 minutes. Then of course, Jesus bursts off the cross and ends up winning as fog lights and lasers surround him. ~ John Knox - Not The Bee

Revelation 2:20-23 LSB

²⁰ 'But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and deceives My slaves so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ 'And I gave her time to repent, and she does not wish to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of *sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³ 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 4:12-17](#), Matthew carefully reveals four truths about the Father's plans for Jesus's life and ministry. We need to recognize that our glorious God with His great grace governs a:

Ministry's Timing (timely and true)! [Review]

Ministry's Placement (perfect and precise)!

Ministry's Message (meaningful and mighty)!

Ministry's Result (resounding and remarkable)!

Sermon Text

Matthew 4:12-17 LSB

¹² Now when *Jesus* heard that John had been taken into custody, He departed into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, 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.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Review & Background

Matthew 1:1 LSB

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Matthew 1:17 LSB

¹⁷ Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ, fourteen generations.

Matthew 1:18 LSB

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:23 LSB

²³ “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

Matthew 2:13 LSB

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

[Matthew 3:3](#) (LSB) ³ For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”

Matthew 3:13 LSB

¹³ Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John to be baptized by him.

Matthew 3:16 LSB

¹⁶ And after being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove *and* coming upon Him,

Matthew 3:17 LSB

¹⁷ and behold, *there was* a voice out of the heavens saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 4:1 LSB

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

This brings us to [Matt 4:12-17](#) - and a review of the first of four truths about the Father’s plans for Jesus’s life and ministry.

We need to recognize that -

Our glorious God with His great grace governs a Ministry’s Timing ([Matt 4:12a](#))!

[Matthew 4:12](#) (LSB) ¹² Now when *Jesus* heard that John had been taken into custody, He departed into Galilee;

The Father's timing is timely and true!

John 3:30 LSB

³⁰ "He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 2:4 LSB

⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

Matthew 14:8 LSB

⁸ Now having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

[Matthew 4:12](#) (LSB) ¹² Now when *Jesus* heard that John had been taken into custody, He departed into Galilee;

[John 4:43](#) (LSB) ⁴³ And after the two days He went from there into Galilee.

Our glorious God with His great grace governs a Ministry's Placement ([Matt 4:12-16](#))!

[Matthew 4:12-13](#) (LSB) ¹² Now when *Jesus* heard that John had been taken into custody, He departed into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,

John 4:1-3 LSB

¹ Therefore when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples *were*), ³ He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

Our Father's Placement is Precise!

[Matthew 4:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ and leaving Nazareth, He came and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,

Our Father's Placement is Perfect!

[Matthew 4:14-16](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, 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.”

Isaiah 9:1 LSB

¹ But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

2 Kings 15:29 LSB

²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he took them away into exile to Assyria.

Isaiah 9:2 LSB

² The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in the land of the shadow of death, The light will shine on them.

The explanation is simply that at this point Jesus Christ moved his ministry to Galilee precisely because he had not been received in Galilee previously, and it was therefore the Galileans above everyone else who needed him. In other words, Jesus went to Galilee because the Galileans needed the gospel. **James Montgomery Boice**

The Bible is enveloped by the imagery of light, both literally and figuratively.

At the beginning of the biblical narrative, physical light springs forth as the first created thing (Gen 1:3-4).

At the end of the story the light of God obliterates all traces of darkness: “And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light” (Rev 22:5 RSV).

Between these two beacons the imagery of light makes nearly two hundred appearances, with light emerging as one of the Bible’s major and most complex symbols.

Leland Ryken; James C. Wilhoit; Tremper Longman III; Colin Duriez; Douglas Penney; Daniel G. Reid

[Matthew 4:16](#) (LSB) 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.”

Matthew is not interested in the mere fact that some prophecy was fulfilled in Galilee but in this particular prophecy: from of old the Messiah was promised to “Galilee of the Gentiles” , a foreshadowing of the commission to “all nations” ([Matt 28:19](#)).

[Matthew 28:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 9:13 LSB

¹³ “But go and learn what this means: ‘I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Luke 19:10 LSB

¹⁰ “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

Our glorious God with His great grace governs a Ministry’s Message ([Matt 4:17](#))!

Matthew 4:17 LSB

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 3:2 LSB

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The Lord's message is meaningful!

[Luke 24:46-47](#) (LSB) ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Hebrews 12:16-17 LSB

¹⁶ that *also there be* no sexually immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal. ¹⁷ For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

[Matthew 27:3](#) (LSB) ³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

This word always references changing the mind and the purpose from sin to holiness. ~ John Broadus

[2 Corinthians 7:9-10](#) (LSB) ⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to repentance. For you were made to have godly sorrow, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

The Lord's message is mighty!

[Matthew 4:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Psalm 10:16 LSB

¹⁶ Yahweh is King forever and ever; Nations have perished from His land.

Psalm 29:10 LSB

¹⁰ Yahweh sat *enthroned over* the flood; Indeed, Yahweh sits as King forever.

[Psalm 145:11-13](#) (LSB) They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your might; To make known to the sons of men His mighty deeds And the

glory of the majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures from generation to every generation.

[Daniel 2:44](#) (LSB) “And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will cause a kingdom to rise up which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself stand forever.

Daniel 4:3 LSB

³ “How great are His signs, And how strong are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation.

“I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom, men are to fear and be in dread before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be unto the end. “He saves and delivers and does signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has *also* saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Ephesians 2:8–9 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast.

Our glorious God with His great grace governs a Ministry’s Result ([Matt 4:17](#))!

Matthew 4:17 LSB

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

The Result will be resounding!

[Matthew 4:18–22](#) (LSB) 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 And 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 And immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

The Result will be remarkable!

Matthew 4:23-25 LSB

²³ And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. ²⁴ And 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. ²⁵ And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

Conclusion:

The Gospel

Romans 3:9-20 LSB

⁹ What then? Are we better? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰ as it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; ¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME WORTHLESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.” ¹³ “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN TOMB, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPES IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”; ¹⁴ “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”; ¹⁵ “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, ¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, ¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.” ¹⁸ “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.” ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are in the Law, so that every mouth may be shut and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT, for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

If the Holy Spirit has laid anything on your heart in the preaching of this sermon, please contact one of the leaders or speak to a mature Christian to answer your questions. I can be contacted at brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org.

