

Gospel Reflection

The Gospel of Matthew was prepared for Jews who had converted to Christianity in the early church. Therefore, much of Matthew's Gospel connects with prophecies found in readings from the Hebrew scriptures. Many of these prophecies foretold the suffering, doom, and demise of the Israelites, an often recalcitrant nation. But sometimes the prophecies pointed the people to a new vision, a new hope. It is this type of hopeful prophecy found in Isaiah today. At the time of Isaiah's words (in the mid-eighth century B.C.) the Israelites were in the grip of darkness resulting from an Assyrian conquest. The Jewish leaders had rejected Isaiah's plea for courage and faith in God. Instead they followed the pagan Assyrians. It was during this time that Isaiah foretold the coming of a Savior. The hope that Isaiah offered the people was the light brought to them by God, in the promise of the Messiah.

Matthew makes a deliberate connection between the light that shines in the darkness and Jesus, the new light that will show us the way. The Gospel author uses the reading from Isaiah to connect the people of his community to their earlier tradition so that they could walk with Jesus Christ, the new light, the new hope.

There was something urgent in the story that Matthew put down for the people. As he described the call of the first disciples, they left their nets, their boats, and their families at the summons of Jesus. Two thousand years later, we still hear the invitation and our hearts are stirred to drop all the distractions of our lives and follow Jesus. The call of Jesus leads us to a vocation. We may choose a religious life or a single life, or we may be called to marriage, but it is the way in which we live out our response that brings us out of the darkness and allows us to walk in the light.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Matthew 4:12-23

D Y V P M S V N K E Y B G
M E L F R E E H L W M T O
I M X I F E E M E X E Q S
M E Q S G A A R A A W T P
O T D H V E D C C J E C E
D S L E O N E H H N Q Y L
G H N R A T I L B S B O W
N C V M Q N R T I Y B G X
I E Q E G D E W O L L O F
K U L N R E P E N T A A Y
N O M I S N N K H I F G E
M F L G Z Q U T O S E A J
F F C O C C Y Y J L Y D I

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ANDREW	FISHERMEN	FOLLOWED
GALILEE	GOSPEL	HEAVEN
JAMES	JOHN	KINGDOM
NETS	PREACH	REPENT
SEA	SIMON	TEACHING

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1/27/08*

*Matthew 4:12-23
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Matthew 4:12-23*

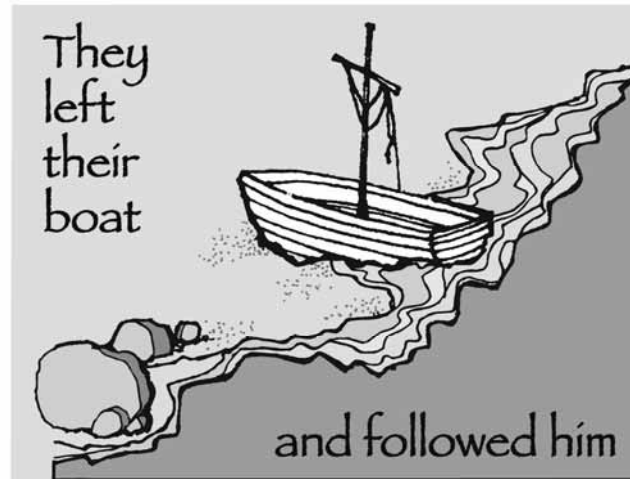
The Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in **Caper-naum** by the sea, in the region of **Zebulun and Naphtali**, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.* From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord



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Gospel Glossary

Caper-naum: a settlement on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Zebulun and Naphtali: two of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Repent: to feel sorry for one's sins and change one's ways as a result.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- What does "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" mean to me?
- What sort of repentance do I need in order to be better prepared for the coming of the kingdom?
- Simon, Andrew, James and John all left something behind to follow Jesus. What do I need to leave behind in order to better follow him?

Closing Prayer

*Almighty Father,
The love you offer always exceeds the
furthest expression of our human long-
ing, for you are greater than the hu-
man heart. Direct each thought, each
effort of our lives, so that the limits of
our faults and weaknesses may not ob-
scure the vision of your glory or keep
us from the peace you have promised.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time