



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Matthew 4:12-25

Title: Follow Me

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 3/29/2020

Discussion Starter –As we are really are starting to feel the effects of this pandemic Corona virus, with many businesses shutting down and revenue streams drying up, how has following Jesus changed for you? What things have you taken for granted? What is Jesus showing you through this time?

Jesus Brings Light Into The Darkness (Matthew 4:12-16)

- It is believed that there is about a one year period between Matthew 4:11 to 4:12. John is now in prison so there has been a transition of his disciples over to Jesus. Read John 3:25-30. Describe what is happening in John's life and the significance of his state the that he must decrease. What part of your life needs to decrease so Jesus can increase?
- In Matthew 4:13-16 we see Jesus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that the Messiah would bring a great light to a people who sat in darkness. Describe in your own words what it means to live in darkness. Read John 3:19-21; 8:12. Discuss the insights we gain about living in the light or the darkness from these verses.
- What are some of the identifying character traits of those who are living in the darkness and like it, compared to those who are living in the darkness but think they are living in the light? What two philosophies will they have about life and God and how do they go about living their lives based on this darkness? Read Proverbs 16:25. Explain how this verse ties into Matthew 4:16, and how it also applies to the world we live in today.

Jesus Brings Light Into Our Darkness (Matthew 4:17-25)

- What must first happen before Jesus can bring light into our darkness? What are some of the things Jesus' light brings to us when we choose to follow Him? What are some of the things His light teaches us?
- Do you think the disciples knew the new life that Jesus was calling them to when they decided to follow Him? Describe your own experience of Jesus' calling on your life?
- How has this pandemic Corona virus challenged you as a Christian? What light has Jesus brought into your life in this regard to enable you to see and react to things differently?
- How can we access the freedom that Jesus' light bring to our lives? Describe in your own words what does this freedom looks like?
- How can we be fooled to think we are living in the light when we are not? What are some of the key indicators that can warn us if we are living in the light or not?
- The Apostle Paul was a man who had seen the light of Jesus. His life was radically changed from that moment on. Read 2 Timothy 4:8 and Ephesians 1:16-20. What transformation do you see that has taken place in Paul's life? How has his identity and purpose changed since Jesus brought light into his life? How has this pandemic caused you to reflect on your identity and purpose?