

A Different King

The Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry Matthew 4:18—5:20

*“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’
At once they left their nets and followed him.” Matthew 4:19–20*

1. After his baptism and time of testing in the desert, Jesus begins his public ministry. What does he do? (verses 12; 17–19; 23, 24)
2. What kinds of people respond to Jesus? How do they respond? (verses 24–25)
3. As Jesus preached the “good news of the Kingdom” throughout Galilee he also performed miracles. Describe the miracles he performed. What is the significance of these miracles? (Isaiah 61:1–2; 35:5–6)
4. The kings who have ruled over Israel for the last 200 hundred years have been blood-thirsty, oppressive, and cruel. In contrast, what is the rightful king, Jesus, like? (Matthew 2:6; 9:36)
5. How do the first four disciples respond to Jesus' call? (verses 20, 22) Why do you think Jesus chose these men to be his disciples rather than more educated men? (1 Corinthians 1:26-31) Read John 1:35-42. In what ways did Jesus' previous interactions prepare these men to respond immediately to Jesus' call?
6. Do you remember when you first heard Jesus calling you? How did you respond?
7. What have you given up and left behind to follow Jesus? Was it worth it? Why?

8. What kind of people will be a part of the new kingdom? Write beside each one your own definition. List each attribute on the left; and describe what that means on the right.

verse 3 poor in spirit

To admit my spiritual poverty; I need God.

verse 4

verse 5

verse 6

verse 7

verse 8

verse 9

verse 10

9. Read 5:13–16. What does Jesus say that his followers are like? Why do you think he uses these two images? What obstacles do you meet in trying to be salt and light?

10. In verse 17 Jesus says that he has not come to abolish the Old Testament Law and Prophets but to fulfill them. Why do you think Jesus needed to say this? How is Jesus this promised fulfillment? (Romans 3:21–26; Hebrews 1:1–4)

11. How do you think the disciples and listeners felt about what Jesus announces in verse 20? How do you respond to verses 19-20? Read Romans 3:20–26 and 8:1–4. How do these verses encourage you?