



## Key References:

### Matthew 4:16 (ESV)

<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.”

### Matthew 4:19–22 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**  
<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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.

### Matthew 5:2–12 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup> **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
<sup>4</sup> **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**  
<sup>5</sup> **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**  
<sup>6</sup> **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**  
<sup>7</sup> **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**  
<sup>8</sup> **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**  
<sup>9</sup> **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**  
<sup>10</sup> **“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
<sup>11</sup> **“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

## 1 – THE START OF JESUS’ MINISTRY

Read Matthew 4:12-24. **What was Jesus preaching from the very beginning of his ministry (see v17)? What did Jesus mean about the kingdom of God “being at hand”? Is there something we can learn about the directness and urgency of Jesus’ delivery?**

**How did Jesus build his team? What do you imagine Simon and Andrew might have seen in this man that emboldened them to leave all they knew to follow him? Do we shine with a similar light, drawing people to us? If not, what stands in the way of that in our own places of ministry?**

## 2 – JESUS & THE BEATITUDES

Read Matthew 5:1-12. **Who is the target audience of these verses – the rich, fulfilled, and powerful, or the poor, the grieving, or the meek? What does he promise to each of these eight groups? When is the promise for – now or in heaven?**

**Looking through the list of the beatitudes can you think of times when Jesus had encounters with these people in the gospels? What were they like?**

**How did Jesus’ interactions with the proud & religious compare to the downtrodden?**

## 3 – US & THE BEATITUDES

Andrew said on Sunday that; *“there’s opportunity and strategy in this list for us we go out and share the gospel”*. **What strategies or approaches are there for evangelism found in this list? Why is the gospel so attractive to people who fit into some of these categories?**

**How does everyone, rich or poor, fit into and cycle through these eight categories? How would our own ministry change if we were to see people in our lives the way Jesus does in the sermon on the mount?**

Read Matthew 4:19-22 again. **How is Jesus calling you and us together to be fishers of men?**

Jesus invited his disciples on a journey, to be the light in the world. We are invited to be on that same journey, and our reward is that we get to spend time with Jesus. **How does the time we spend with Jesus impact the light we are to the people Jesus loves and wants saved? How has that already happened in our lives?**

## Additional References:

### **Matthew 4:12–17 (ESV) - Jesus Begins His Ministry**

<sup>12</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “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.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### **Matthew 4:18–22 (ESV) - Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> 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.

### **Matthew 4:23–25 (ESV) - Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds**

<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.

### **Matthew 5:1–12 (ESV)**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

#### **The Beatitudes**

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.