



#4 The Light Dawns!

Matthew 4:12-17

ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN

Matthew 4:12 (NIV) When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— ¹⁴to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Three Phases of Jesus' Ministry...

Year One – Obscurity

Year Two – Popularity

Year Three – Increasing Hostility

Jesus Launched His Public Ministry...

1. At the Appointed **TIME** in God's Plan: **WHEN JOHN WAS IMPRISONED**
2. In the Appointed **PLACE** in God's Plan: **GALILEE**
3. As the Appointed **PERSON** in God's Plan: **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**
4. With the Appointed **MESSAGE** in God's Plan: **REPENT; THE KINGDOM IS NEAR**

JESUS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

1John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

JESUS' FOLLOWERS: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world.

Ephesians 5:8 ... for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

“How can we shine HIS light in this dark world?”

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, **in which you shine like stars** in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

1. We shine HIS light by reflecting His **CHARACTER** to others
2. We shine HIS light by sharing His **TRUTH** with others
3. We shine HIS light brightly by gratefully doing **“LOVEWORKS”**
Matthew 5:14 A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, **let your light shine before others**, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“LOVE Works”

Self-sacrificial acts of kindness,
offered to those we cross paths with,
In hopes of pointing them to our glorious God,
offered with no strings attached,
not out of guilt or duty, or to somehow obligate God,
but rather motivated by gratefulness for Christ's sacrifice
and prompted by the Holy Spirit
as we entrust the results to the Lord.

Bible Reading Plan

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Deuteronomy 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Deuteronomy 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Deuteronomy 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Deuteronomy 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Deuteronomy 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Deuteronomy 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Deuteronomy 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Deuteronomy 10 |

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New Life Church, Gahanna/Jan. 26 & 27, 2013