

MAKING THE TURN

January 22, 2023

Preaching: Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



MATTHEW 4:12-23

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the
Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region
and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Jesus preaches repentance. What does that word mean to you? Does it carry any negative or hurtful baggage? How do you practice repentance, if at all?
3. Jesus also preaches “the kingdom of God has come near.” What does that phrase mean? How might one live “in the nearness of the kingdom” in their daily life?
4. What do you think it means to “fish for people”? What might that calling look like for Christ-followers in the 21st century?
5. What do you think it meant to those first disciples to leave and follow Jesus? What were they giving up, what were they gaining? What do followers of Jesus give up today? What have you “left behind” in your spiritual journey?