

Matthew 4:17

From then on Jesus began to **preach**, “**Repent**, because the **kingdom of heaven** has come **near**.”

Presence of the King == Arrival & Availability of the Kingdom life

Repent:

change of *thinking* → *living* BECAUSE of the *immediate availability* of the Kingdom
→ **A REALITY that must be RESPONDED to ...**

Moving into the Sermon on the Mount // Moving into the Kingdom

1) The *Call* of Jesus the King

The nature of the call (Who & what) forces a response (~ranking).

Matthew 4:18-22

As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “**Follow Me**,” He told them, “and I will **make** you fish for people.” ²⁰ **Immediately** they left their nets and **followed Him**.
²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and He **called** them. ²² **Immediately** they left the boat and their father and **followed Him**.

{come up one at a time}

How We Miss the Point (~Misteach the Sermon)

- **Guilt & Do better**
- **Hesitation/Not ready**
- **The Cost**

2) *Clarity* about the *Cost*

→ **Why did they immediately leave and so quickly follow ...?**

- a) The **cost** illustrates the value of **Who** they would be with and **what** they would now (*immediately*) be part of = the **Kingdom!**
- b) The cost also reflects their **confidence in Christ**.
→ *I believe in Jesus vs. I have confidence in Him.*

What if the *real cost* (unbearable) is missing the King & His Kingdom?

Matthew 4:23-25

Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom, and **healing** every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴Then the news about Him spread throughout Syria. So they **brought to Him** all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And He healed them. ²⁵Large crowds **followed Him** from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

Jesus' Ministry:

- **His authority**
 - **Declaration & Demonstration**
- **His presence is the Kingdom**
 - **“Here & Now” AND “Then & There”**

Matthew 5:1-2a

When He saw the **crowds**, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His **disciples** came to Him. ²Then He began to **teach them** ...

3) **Commitment** to **learn** and to **become** (*which certainly includes obedience to the King*) as a product of **devotion** to the King and a lifestyle **with Him**.

A) See the Kingdom **vision**: *enthralled with, captivated by, hungry for ...*

- Leaving AND following
 - It's the “following” that brings about the “leaving”

B) Give our **intention**

- Increase our **“immediately”**

C) Fix (*turn, focus*) our **minds**

We bring the reality of God into our lives by making contact with Him through our minds, and our living/lifestyle flows from that contact.

John 6:63

... The words that I {Jesus} have spoken to you are **spirit and are life**.

Clear & Present Dangers:

- What we “admit” into our minds and how it affects our thinking → living
- Overconfidence & pride in what “I think” and “I feel”

Psalm 73:28a

But as for me, God's presence is my good.