

Following the Call

Matthew 4:12–23

Live from Galilee

Click [here](#)

Meditative Prayer

Click [here](#)

Fish Puzzle

Click [here](#)

Today's Bible Reading

Click [here](#)

Additional Bible Readings

Isaiah 9:1–4

Psalms 27:1, 4–9

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

Inviting God, you call us to follow, to witness and to wonder. You call us to follow and risk all we know so that the change we need can finally be seen. Amen.

Matthew 4:12–23 is full of risk and uncertainty. Jesus has gone to Galilee to gather disciples and reaches out to Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew. His call to follow sounds absurd and abrupt. It may be helpful to note that the writer of Matthew relates significant events in the story of Jesus without necessarily indicating the passage of time. Jesus speaks, and the fishers respond. These brothers change the direction in their lives and follow.

Andrew and Simon have no idea what they are following Jesus for. “I will make you fish for people,” does not offer clarity. Questions raised by this text are numerous. Why these two people? Why this community? Why fishers and not someone else? This move by Andrew and Simon must have seemed impulsive at best and foolish at worst. What was it like for Zebedee, to watch his children, James and John, make what may appear to be a foolish and impulsive decision to follow a stranger and leave behind their responsibilities for providing for family and community? What is a parent’s response to such choices?

Within this one passage, all the elements of Jesus’ earthly ministry are included: proclaiming the presence of God’s reign, teaching, healing, and calling disciples. An indication of the way Jesus ministers is found here, too. Matthew portrays Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah’s description of God’s faithful and peaceful servant. Jesus’ actions indicate God’s new ways and set a model for the church and all who seek to follow Jesus.