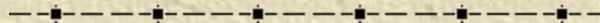




*From Obscurity to Fame*

Matthew 4:18-25



# *Christ in Christmas*

## ✦ Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays?

- What about keeping Christ in the rest of the year?

## ✦ The sacrifice of the incarnation

- God in the flesh
- Glory to obscurity
- Obscurity for a purpose

## ✦ God's Kingdom Inaugurated

- What is the reaction to God's Kingdom come?

# *Proper Response to God's Rule*

## **Matthew 4:18-22**

*18 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. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 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. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

# *Proper Response to God's Rule*

✦ Fishermen

✦ Follow Me

- Discipleship
- Follow Jesus Only

✦ New Calling

- Fisher's of People
- Use the Gifts you have been given

✦ Immediate Following

- John 1:35-42
- Not Easy, but worth it

✦ Called by Name

- Eph 1:4

✦ Sacrifice

- Jesus is first priority in all areas of our life

# *God's Rule Over the World*

## **Matthew 4:23-25**

*<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, epileptics, 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.*

# *God's Rule Over the World*

- ✦ Jesus went teaching/proclaiming the Gospel and healing
  - Synagogues and In Public
- ✦ Ministered to Physical Needs AND Hearts and Minds
  - Not either/or but both/and
  - We need to Know God's Word (deeply) and Care for those around us

# *Follow Jesus in Everything*

- ✦ St. Francis of Assisi never said “Preach the Gospel and when necessary use words”
- ✦ During this time or remember Jesus as a small baby born to poor parents, don’t forget to share it as well as remember it.
- ✦ Avoid buying more idols for you and your loved ones to spend time with (gift buying and giving is not inherently sinful, but can be a gateway for idolatry)
- ✦ After shopping, share the Gospel with someone.