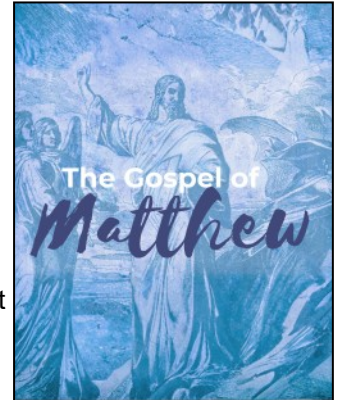


Pastor Jake Magee

June 14, 2026



How God Starts Matthew 4:12-25



¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

How Does God Start?

At the _____.

In the _____.

With the _____.

Though the _____.

Small Group Discussion Guide

How God Starts

Matthew 4:12–25

Getting Started

Share about a time when you started something at what seemed like the worst possible time. What made the timing seem wrong? Did it ultimately fail or succeed? Why?

Digging Deeper (*Read Matthew 4:12-25*)

On Sunday, we looked at how Jesus began His public ministry. Humanly speaking, His approach seemed unlikely to succeed. Yet the results were immediate, powerful, and life changing (vss.23-25). As a group, work through Matthew 4:12–25 together and discuss the following:

- Identify the four surprising ways Jesus begins His ministry and locate them in the passage.
- Why might each of these choices have seemed ineffective or even counterproductive from a human perspective?
- Why were these same choices perfectly suited to accomplish God's purposes?
- Discuss why each of these approaches is difficult for us to embrace, yet often becomes the pathway to God's greatest work in our lives.
- What would it look like to embrace these pathways in your own life this week?

Making It Real

As you go into the week, take time to reflect on the following: Is there something God is calling you to do that you've been postponing because the timing doesn't seem right? Are there difficult places, circumstances, or relationships where you've assumed God is unlikely to work? Is there an area of your life where you need to repent and align yourself with Christ rather than your own desires or wisdom? Are there feelings of inadequacy, weakness, or unworthiness that keep you from believing God can use you?

Prayer

Pray that God would:

- Give us faith to trust His timing even when it differs from our own.
- Help us follow Him into difficult places rather than avoid them.
- Give us humble and repentant hearts that are eager to receive His correction.
- Remind us that His power is displayed through weak and ordinary people.
- Help us obey His voice today rather than putting off what He is calling us to do.
- Shine the light of Christ into the darkest areas of our hearts and lives.

Resources

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org