

About turn

Matthew 4.12-23

Jesus calls on people to repent and turn from darkness towards light. As he walks along the shore of Lake Galilee, he invites two fishermen to follow him. Immediately, they leave behind their old lives and follow him, as do the next fishermen he approaches. Jesus travels all over Galilee teaching, preaching and healing the sick.

Now read **Matthew 4.12-23** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

The word Jesus uses for 'repent' literally means to think differently after this encounter, to go beyond our current understanding. Having encountered Jesus, our lives are turned around and we are invited to follow him in a different direction, as the fishermen in the passage did right away.

Birdwatch



The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch takes place this week (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>). Spend one hour counting the birds that you see landing in your garden or local park. Since 1979, the number of sparrows reported has fallen by 58% and the number of starlings by 82%. Thinking about caring for God's creation, in what ways do we need to repent? What do we need to leave behind, in the same way that the fishermen left behind their nets?



BAKE



Create an inverted dessert!

You will need: cake tin lined with greaseproof paper, fruit such as pineapple or pears, ingredients to make a sponge cake mixture. (Two example recipes can be found at https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/pineapple_upside-down_75534 and <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/tarte-tatin-recipes>). For the pineapple dessert recipe, cover the base of the cake tin with the fruit. Make your sponge mixture and spoon it evenly over the fruit before baking for the required time. When you remove the cake from the tin, it looks like a plain sponge cake, but turn it round and you find it transformed.



What happens when you swap the G to a C? How is life transformed for those who repent?



Collect some of your rubbish and recycling this week and see if you can transform something which seemed worthless into something beautiful. For example, you could turn an empty bottle into a vase, ring pulls into windchimes, or a can into a music shaker.

Pray



You will need an uninflated balloon. Think of some things you struggle with, you are tempted by, or that get in the way of your relationship with God. Name each one out loud, saying after it, 'Help me, God, go beyond my current thinking' and blow a little air into the balloon. Notice how the balloon has expanded and changed, and reflect on how your life can be changed with God's help.



LISTEN



Listen to 'Turn your eyes upon Jesus' by Paul Baloche (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYwFR8E1_Eo), which picks up on the image of turning from darkness to light in today's passage. Throughout this week, whenever you turn on a light, say a silent prayer asking Jesus to turn you towards him.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Now when Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been arrested, he moved to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum, by the lake. This was a place once called the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what the prophet Isaiah had foretold might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea of Galilee – you are a special place because the people who felt helpless, as if they were sitting in the dark, and were afraid that they would die, have seen a great light, and a new dawn has come to them.' From that time on, Jesus began to tell the people, 'Repent and begin a new life, for the kingdom of heaven is near you.'

As Jesus walked by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish

for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. He went on from there, and saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. Jesus called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

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

Matthew 4.12-23



Did you know?

- Galilee was a region in the north of Israel. Jesus' hometown, Nazareth, was part of the area.
- Capernaum was a small fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, a freshwater lake sometime also called Lake Tiberius.

Matthew 4.12-23 (NRSV)

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

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
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.'

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

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. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 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. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

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.