



The Turn God Is Waiting For!

October 4, 2026

Scripture: Matthew 4:13-17, *New King James Version*

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-2; Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4

“The Introduction”

Background: Verses 12-17 serves as an important transition, bringing Jesus to Galilee where His ministry is to have its formal beginning. Jesus has been prepared by the baptism and the temptation in the wilderness, the stage is fully set and now comes the word that John has been arrested: the work of the forerunner is complete.¹

Some theologians describe this moment as Jesus, the Messiah, continuing the proclamation John the Baptist had begun. John preached, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). Now Jesus takes up that same urgent message. Matthew declares, “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 4:17). The message remains the same, but the moment has changed, for repentance was the first aspect of Jesus’ ministry. John announced the coming Kingdom; Jesus arrives as the King who brings the Kingdom near.

Jesus understood the nature and consequences of sin and thus urged sinners’ repentance toward God and faith in himself as the means of their recovery to divine favor. Therefore, as an introduction, verse 17 will be the springboard to unpack our next series, “The Turn God is Waiting For.”

Jesus’ first call was not simply to feel sorry about sin, but to turn from it. **Repentance** is aptly depicted by the military command “About Face!” The repentant person in effect turns around 180 degrees and goes the other direction. And keep in mind that the spiritual dynamics of true repentance are enabled by the Holy Spirit - repentance is a GIFT FROM GOD!²

Beloved, The Kingdom has come near. God is waiting for you to turn, the question is: “Are we willing to turn?”

Matthew 4:12-17

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: ¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.

The Call to Reconnect

^{17a} From that time Jesus began to preach

What We’re Turning Into

^{17b} and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Our Mission Statement

To love and serve God through Jesus Christ our Savior by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be committed to reshaping the lives of our families, our church, and our communities through *biblical worship, discipleship, and evangelism.*



¹ Donald A. Hagner. *Word Biblical Commentary: Matthew 1-13*. (TN: Thomas Nelson Publisher, 2000), 74.

² <https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew-4-commentary#4:17>