

“Darkness-Piercing Light” (Matthew 4:12–17)
GCC, Morning worship, 3/6/22

Introduction

- A. Jesus Coming into His Own (4:12)

- I. **Jesus Begins to Herald the Kingdom of Darkness-Piercing Light**
 - A. Jesus settles in Capernaum, sets up his headquarters there and fulfills a prophecy (Isa 9:1–2)
 - 1. Double fulfillment
 - B. The Reality of Light Piercing Darkness comes to us *through Preaching*
 - 1. Twofold purpose
 - a. Summarizing the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.
 - b. The **preaching** of repentance unto the entrance of the Kingdom of God is the **vehicle** through which the light pierces the darkness

- II. **The Church’s Mission to Pierce the Darkness with the Light of the Kingdom**
 - A. Our Union with Christ pierces the Darkness of delusion, depravity, and despondency

 - B. Darkness Piercing Light Comes *in a Kingdom*

 - C. Darkness Piercing Light Comes *through Repentance*

 - D. The Way of Kingdom Repentance is *marked by Rejection*

Questions for Discussion and Application

1. How is Matthew’s quotation of Isa 9:1–2 a *double fulfillment*?
2. How is the concept of “darkness-piercing light” an apt metaphor for the mission of Jesus and the church in the world?
3. How is *preaching* the *vehicle* through which the light pierces the darkness?
4. Why is the *kingdom* such an important part of the darkness-piercing light of the gospel?
5. Why is repentance (for both believers and unbelievers) such an important part of the message of the kingdom?
6. In what sense can people’s *rejection* of our message of repentance be comforting?
7. How can we become overly man-centered when it comes to calling people to repentance? What is the remedy to this?