

“He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:” Matthew 4:13-14 NLT

lectio // Matthew 4:12-25

Matthew is VERY particular about every detail of Jesus' life. To us, these specifics find no interest, but for Matt, it's critically important. And, thankfully he not only tells us why he's so fastidious (FULFILLMENT), he tells us where to look for the promise of that fulfillment (Isaiah). Isaiah alone foretold about Jesus about 14 times. This one is purely about where he would hang out - "In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee" And why Jesus would be there, "where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined." Isaiah 9:1,2. I read and I see directional coordinates, Matthew writes for us to see promises kept and PURPOSE. I think about our lives and the myriad of decisions we make throughout a normal, busy day. I'm walking through my neighborhood, I'm driving on the 405, I'm getting gas or picking up some Jimmy Dean Meatbowls at Smart-n-Final. Not to interesting is it? But to think that God has design, plans and even purpose behind those "random" errands - 🤔. Robin and I stopped at a Wendy's one time to get a sandwich and ended up praying with a woman who's mother had Alzheimer's! Her mom's name is Joanne. We didn't just run into this gal once, we did it twice - a month apart! Look, it's simple if you believe God is who he said he is. He created all things, and nothing was without purpose. Our lives are not as random and chaotic as we think. Jesus made his way down to Galilee because God wanted him there. Where have you been today? Can you see the Holy Spirit's guidance in your wandering?

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Dad,

Nothing is coincidence! You are an amazing designer of all things good. If I am willing to listen, willing to see and willing to obey - you will not only direct my day, you will let me see the purpose of eternity and the Kingdom of God behind every encounter, every seemingly interrupted moment. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your wonder, your plan!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root