

St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2026! Leading to Worship Sunday, January 25, 2026

Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! This week, we consider how God puts us where he needs us; what we do from there depends on us! Click here:

<https://youtu.be/dBqF3Ef1t4s?si=sqX1lPY7chpa9Xmw>

Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

Three Points

- Christ enters places of darkness rather than avoiding them. Jesus begins his ministry in a region marked by political oppression, cultural tension, and violence. From a Lutheran perspective, this shows a God who does not wait for the world to become peaceful before acting but brings light precisely where fear and hostility dominate.
- The light is given, not achieved. The dawning light in Matthew's Gospel is not the result of human moral progress or spiritual effort. It is God's unilateral act of grace. Peace, in this sense, is not something Christian's manufacture, but something they receive in Christ and then bear into a fractured world.
- The light creates vocation, not withdrawal. Luther understood God's grace as freeing believers from self-justification so they can turn outward in love. Seeing the light does not remove Christians from violent times; it sends them back into daily life as people shaped by mercy, restraint, and neighbor-love rather than fear or retaliation.

Two Questions

- When you consider that Christ's light dawns in places marked by violence, injustice, and death, what does that reveal about God's commitment to the world as it actually is? Where do you see darkness—externally in society or internally in yourself—and what would it mean to trust that God's light meets you there rather than waiting for you to escape it?
- In a culture that often responds to fear with aggression or withdrawal, how might living as someone who has “seen the light” change your posture toward others? Where are you being called to embody calm, restraint, or compassion as a quiet witness to God's peace this week?

Action Step

- Each day, acknowledge one place where darkness feels real—whether in the news, your community, or your own heart—and consciously entrust it to Christ's light. Then choose one deliberate act that resists fear or hostility: speak gently where tension exists, listen instead of reacting, or extend care to someone overlooked. Let that small act serve as a sign that the light has dawned, even here.

Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!