

## The Gospel of Mark

### 1. Review

2. Mark 1:16-20 *As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.*

- a. If we read this passage in its own context, without any other biblical information, we would be led to believe that Jesus just kind of picked Simon and Andrew out by random, and then happened upon James and John.
  - i. And in so doing, we would assume that was the way Jesus picked all of his disciples, by just walking up to them out of the blue and calling them. I venture to say that it was far more interesting and complex than that. While I am positive Jesus had the Holy Spirit pointing people out to Him, God needed to be a work in the hearts of those people in perfect timing and tuning to what Jesus was doing.
  - ii. Mark's account is the LEAST detailed account of the calling of these four disciples. We need to fill in the blanks so that we can get a clear picture of how these four men moved from their first encounter with Jesus to the place where they became his most devoted followers.
- b. Open to John 1:35-42 *"The next day John (the Baptist) was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas"*
  - i. When Jesus asked them, "What are you seeking?" He was forcing them to define their purposes and goals.
  - ii. He asks each of us that same question. What is your answer. What are you seeking in life? What do you want FROM Jesus?
  - iii. I want everyone to close their eyes and imagine the scene I am about to describe.
    1. It's a Saturday afternoon and you and two of your friends are down in the center of town just hanging out. You are all laughing and having a great time; eating candy and popping in and out of different stores. After about an hour or so of this, it's about 4:00pm, one of your friends jumps up and points out your favorite celebrity walking around downtown. You and your two friends immediately start watching them with excitement and you convince one of your friends with you into going over to them. The two of you start following this celebrity around – going into the same stores, taking pictures of them with your cell phone and trying at the same time not to be too obvious. Eventually though, this celebrity realizes they're being followed and they turn and ask you and your friend, "What do you want?" A bit embarrassed, you explain you think a lot of this celebrity and were curious about where in town they were staying – you knew they didn't live here but were just visiting. To your surprise and delight, rather than just telling you and your friend where they were staying they actually invite you to come and see and they ask if you want to hang out all night with them. Absolutely ecstatic, you say yes and run off, you and your friend with your favorite celebrity

have an amazing night hanging out, eating junk food, playing video games, talking and telling secrets. In the morning, it's time to leave but before you go your favorite celebrity lets you know they are going to be in town for a few more days and that you and your friend are welcome to come back and bring others too.

- iv. What do you do once you walk out the door? I think the vast majority, would run home telling anyone you knew what had just happened. When you got home, you'd tell your parents and siblings as you ran up to your bedroom to log on to Facebook and update your status (if you hadn't done it already) and tell everyone what you just experienced. You would then text a bunch of your closer friends the exciting news and probably make a couple of calls as well trying to invite others to come back with you later that day.
- v. This is what happened to Andrew and another disciple. This is what set the stage for their later encounter with Him at their fishing boat a few days later.
  - 1. We all know what happened to Andrew. But what happened to the "other disciple" of John the Baptist? Why does he remain unnamed? Did he not decide to follow Jesus? Was his heart not turned toward Christ. Which one are YOU?

3. How do we reconcile these two different accounts?

- a. If I were to try to bring them together, I would look to John's gospel to understand this as their INTRODUCTION to Jesus.
- b. Andrew was said to be a disciple of John. The passage says he heard Jesus speak and was in awe. He and another disciple of John stayed with Jesus for about a day, most likely captivated by Jesus teachings. He later went to find his brother Simon and introduced him to Jesus.
  - i. Now keep in mind, fishermen worked from dawn to dusk 6 days a week. So the only way that Simon could have been introduced to Jesus by his brother would have been on the Sabbath day.
  - ii. Then, the next day, Andrew and Simon went back to work on their family fishing business. We don't know how many days pass before their next encounter with Jesus.
  - iii. According to Mark's Gospel, we know that Jesus comes along and "calls them" to follow him. We don't necessarily know when or how. Because Mark's account omits so many details that we need to look at Luke's account to see how they all fit together:
- c. **3<sup>rd</sup> account: Luke 5:1-11** *"1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He (Jesus) was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." 11 **When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.**"*
  - i. This 3<sup>rd</sup> account adds to Mark's account a tremendous amount of detail. So that the mere calling of the four of them becomes a miraculous encounter with the power of God in Jesus. Simon and Andrew's partners in the other boat were James and John, sons of Zebedee.
  - ii. Do you see how all of these accounts tie together and compliment each other? If we are careful to read them and cross reference them, we can begin to paint a colorful picture of

the sequence of events that led up to Simon, Andrew and James and John becoming disciples of Jesus!

4. What else can we learn about these 4 disciples?
  - a. **Andrew**, disciple of John, fisherman and resident of Bethsaida, also brother to Simon.
    - i. Asks the Master privately about the destruction of the temple Mark 13:3,4
    - ii. Tells Jesus of the Greeks who sought to see him John 12:20-22
    - iii. Reports the number of loaves at the feeding of the five Thousand John 6:8
    - iv. Meets with the disciples after the Lord's ascension Acts 1:13
  - b. **Simon** (later called Peter)
    - i. His mother-in-law healed
    - ii. His life would take us a year to examine! We all know that he is the impetuous, faith filled, quick to speak, daring, fearless and fearful fisherman.
  - c. **The Zebedee Family** (were business partners with Andrew and Simon's family fishing business)
    - i. His wife Salome also followed Christ, and likely provided for his ministry financially.
      1. She witnessed the crucifixion "afar off," and his resurrection, of which she was one of the women spoken to by the angels at the tomb, Mark 15:40; 16:1. Some infer, from comparing Matthew 27:56 and John 19:25, that she was a sister of Mary the mother of Jesus.
      2. She is one who asked Jesus if her sons could sit on his right hand and left in the Kingdom, to which Jesus replied it wasn't his to grant, but that they would drink the same cup as He did.
    - ii. **James** (son of Zebedee, sons of Thunder). Called by historians, James the elder, because he was the elder brother of John. First martyred apostle, killed by Herod.
    - iii. **John** (son of Zebedee, sons of Thunder)
      1. John was personally known to the high-priest, and was charged by the dying Savior with the care of his mother, John 18:15,16 19:26.
      2. Wrote the gospel of John, is called the "disciple who Jesus loved." Also wrote the book of Revelation and was the only apostle not martyred.
5. Of the first four disciples called by Christ, 3 formed His inner circle. Why I wonder, did Andrew not make the cut?
  - a. When we form a team, it is the core, the first called that form the nucleus of that team. Same thing for churches.
  - b. When a new church is planted, the first who form it form the core of that church. **We were a part of a new church in Texas. The first 60 or so members who formed that church had a bond that continues to this day.**
  - c. So also for James, John and Peter. They had first access to Jesus. They heard his teachings before others. They bonded with him earlier than those called later.
6. **Making Disciples, Being Disciples**
  - a. Jesus invested 3 years of his life, 24/7 with these men. 12 of them in all. Yes, he spent more time with Peter, James and John, but that wasn't actually favoritism, but necessity. You must invest more in your strongest leaders. I imagine the head coach of the Browns spends more time with Colt McCoy than with an offensive lineman. Why? Because the QB is the hub, the leader of the team on the field.
  - b. What about you? How will you respond to the quest to be a disciple? As your pastor, I disciple 2 men actively, along with an elder and an elder in training. These guys are an inner circle to me. They aren't more special than anyone else, they just happen to be the people God has called me to invest the greatest part of my energy and time with.
7. What was the response of these 4 men when Jesus called them?

- a. When they first encountered Christ, they were most definitely impressed. They had more than just an encounter with his teaching. They saw the supernatural power of God at work. Paul tells us that the gospel is not just words but power. (1 Thes 1:5: “*or our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction*”)
  - b. What about you. When you first encountered Christ, you may not have become his disciple right away. Perhaps it was someone handing you a tract, or someone praying for you on the street or at the hospital. You were “impressed” by the love of God being evidenced through a frail and ordinary human being. You probably noticed that they had something about their life that you admired, and that you wished you could have. It might be the peace they have, or the love or the joy they lived out. It might even be their purity of life, their inner strength. Whatever it was, it was God living inside of them that was drawing you, just like when Jesus first encountered Andrew...enough for Andrew to ask where Jesus lived. What a strange request to make. But it was one that evidenced Andrew’s burning question, “are you for real?”
  - c. Then, one day, your crisis came. Maybe you are in the middle of that crisis today. You need an answer. You need a solution. You’ve tried everything you can think of and nothing has worked. You might even have said, “God if you are real, will you please help me!”
8. “*they left everything and followed Him.*”
- a. **Jesus will change your world** if you will let Him.
    - i. Did any of these 4 guys ever dream what life would be like from that day forward.
    - ii. This is the size of their world before that (fishing net).
    - iii. How big was their world after that? Jesus unleashed their destiny by seeing in them something they had never seen before, and then unlocked it.
    - iv. That is the role of a discipler – not just to train another person, but to unlock what God is doing inside of them and releasing them to go be that person!
  - b. **There is a cost to following Jesus.** We don’t like talking about it in America. We want everything free and easy. But the cost to you will be your life. Give it up to get it back. Let go to gain. And it isn’t just a one time decision. I can’t tell you how many times I have had to re-surrender my life to Christ after picking it back up and trying to live it by my own power.
    - i. You may be in that place today.
    - ii. Jesus is calling your name.
    - iii. Jesus is calling you to follow Him
    - iv. Will you leave all and be His?
  - c. **He WILL bring order to your life.**
    - i. He does so because He is in charge of your life. (Haven’t you screwed your life up enough?)
    - ii. **He WILL bring change to your life.** When I met Christ, my life was in turmoil. I had been demoted from a sales representative at the hotel chain I had been working at to the asst. kitchen manager. I had always wanted to be a sales representative, but I didn’t like to do things the way they wanted me to. So, here I was, working in the restaurant, long hours again, without much of a future. And that was the day I overheard a waitress telling a policeman about Christ. I surrendered later that evening to Jesus Christ. But my troubles didn’t change instantly. But they did change.
    - iii. It was two weeks later, that a contact I had at Nabisco called me and asked me if I would be interested in interviewing for a management trainee position at their cracker factory. Wow! That was amazing. I would have a chance at a good paying job with a future! Eventually, I got the job! God guided my path every day since the day I surrendered to follow Him. You may be in that place of desperation, of dead end, of hopelessness, or of wondering if God is real. He is. And He can change your life. If you will let him in, give Him your sins, and give him control of your life.

iv.

- d. There are a handful of men and women who are being discipled by others in this church. This is the way of the Master. One on one, living your life in front of someone else, letting them see who you are and how you live, how you pray, how you study the bible, how you journal. And likewise, looking into their lives and speaking into theirs as well.
  - i. If you aren't discipling someone or being discipled, you are missing out. You grow in a bible study, but not nearly as much as when you are being discipled.