

**February 11, 2017 – Elmont Baptist Church**

**Message Series: The Gospel of Mark**

**Week 6: “...Follow Me...”**

**Text: Mark 1:16-20**

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. By the time we are done, we will have read every verse and unpacked every passage.

Here’s a little background – the author is Mark or John Mark. Mark served as Peter’s interpreter and is giving us Peter’s account of the life and ministry of Jesus. This book was written about AD 53-57, making it the first of the four Gospels to be written and the fifth earliest book in the New Testament to be written.

Mark’s audience is Romans, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus has been ministering for about a year. We have looked at the message He preached and now we will see Him calling some of His disciples.

### **“Jesus Said to Them...**

✓ **“...Follow Me, and...**

- **Jesus will lead you**
- **To places you would never go**

From John 1:35-42 we see that most likely these 4 men had already met Jesus and trusted that He was the Messiah and followed His teaching and ministry at some level. This event seems to be several months later and Jesus is calling them to go “all-in”. This is where many of us struggle, right out of the gate. We really don’t want Jesus to lead us. We like to run our own life. We just want to believe in the essentials, but not go all radical. Biblically, that’s just not a good option.

Jesus calls us to follow Him, because if we don’t, we would never go where He wants us to go. Not geographically as much as in relationships and circumstances. We would avoid discomfort at all costs and Jesus often takes us right into it. Is there something in your life that is uncomfortable? Good. It’s a great place for God to work.

✓ **“...I Will Make You Become...**

- **Jesus will change you**
- **The “becoming” will take time**

For these disciples some of the change was immediate. They left their job, family, possessions, and exchanged their known future for an unknown one. But much of the change would come over time. No one follows Jesus and stays the same. He will make you become something you’re not. You will develop His heart, His love for people, His hatred of sin. Francis Chan – “Somehow we have come to believe that someone can be Christian with being like Christ. A “follower” that doesn’t follow.”

✓ **“...Fishers of Men.”**

- **Kingdom mission is work**
- **Because people really matter**

Jesus uses a reference that is familiar to them on a couple of levels. Obviously, they are fishermen, so that’s pretty familiar, but also, in the OT there are references to fishing for men. These references are about God’s coming judgment. Jesus tells them they are going to be “fishers of men” because of God’s coming salvation. When we think about fishing, we think recreation, something we do for occasional enjoyment. This isn’t recreational fishing. This is living differently by God’s grace. This is understanding that Jesus didn’t come and die just to save you from your sin, but, even more, that you would be a testimony of His grace for the praise of His glory. It’s not just you and the people close to you that matter and that God wants to save. If you are a Christ-follower, then you are to be a disciple-maker. In his book *Follow Me*, David Platt says, “When people say they don’t ‘feel close to Jesus’, I ask them if they are making disciples. After all, His promise to be with us is directly tied to His command to make disciples.” (Matthew 28:20)

Jesus may not ask you to leave all your possessions and career and move to a remote place on earth. He might, but He might not. The question is, if He did, would you obey? Jesus doesn’t tell these guys what all they are going to encounter and do, He just says “Follow Me, and I will change your purpose in life. Follow Me, and I will change you.”

### **Thinking it Through...**

- ✓ **Are you following Jesus? Where has He lead you that you never would have gone on your own?**
- ✓ **What has Jesus changed about you?**
- ✓ **Are you working hard by God’s grace in Kingdom work (disciple-making)?**

## Storying Mark 1:16-20

We're finally to a passage that makes storying a little easier. It's a short passage still, but one you can apply storying to. Remember, in the Observation and Interpretation sections, most of the time the obvious answer is the right one.

- **Questions**

- **Observation:** (emphasize that these are rather obvious answers)
  - What town or region is Jesus in?
  - Who does Jesus talk to?
  - What does He say to them?
  - What is the response of these men?
- **Interpretation:**
  - Why does Jesus choose these men?
  - What does He call them to do?
  - Why would they respond like they did?
  - What things did they leave behind?
  - How much did they know about the days ahead?
- **Application:**
  - Can a person trust Christ to forgive their sins, but not follow Christ on mission?
  - What does following Jesus mean?
  - Is Jesus worthy of being followed? Why/How?
  - What have you left behind in response to following Jesus?
  - What are things in our culture that tempt people away from continuing to follow Jesus?
  - What are things in your experience that tempt you away from following Jesus?