

Mark 1:14-20 (NIV)

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were

fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Sermon for January 21, 2024: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

- At the very beginning of this section of Mark 1, we hear the words “good news” once again (see v. 1). What is “the good news” Jesus is proclaiming? How were the hearers to respond to the good news? Do you think the response Jesus is looking for from the hearer is reasonable? Why or why not? Why might some not think this response was good news and refuse to comply?
- After Jesus’s proclamation, he walks along the Sea of Galilee and encounters four men. Discuss these encounters. What did Jesus say to them? Does Jesus’s invitation/call differ from the invitations Jesus gave in John 1:35-48? Explain your answer.
- How did Simon, Andrew, James and John respond to Jesus’s invitation and call? In Mark’s account of this story, Jesus is walking alone. There is no great entourage or crowd to indicate anything about Jesus’s identity. Does their response surprise you? Why or why not?
- Pastor Mark mentioned in his sermon that the prophets Ezekiel, Amos and Jeremiah all contained this idea or metaphor of “fishing for people” used in Mark 1:17. Explore this idea or metaphor a bit further by reading Jeremiah 16:1-16 together. What would the fishermen (and hunters) do to fulfill God’s promise to his people? What was the promise? How would God’s people be able to receive the promise according to Jesus (Mark 1:15)?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark’s sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

ACT ... responding to & applying what we know.

- What is it about Jesus that makes you follow him? Is your reason(s) for continuing to follow Jesus the same or different than when you first began following him? If the reasons are different, what caused the change in your thinking?
- What are the names of those Jesus is calling to follow him today? Are you one of them? Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear the good news? Pray in your group and in your prayer time this week for those who need to hear and believe the good news by name.

BE ... living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.

Good news ... oh, how we need some good news in our lives!

MAKE time this week to meditate on the good news that Jesus brings. EXPLORE the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and pick one or two good news encounters Jesus had with people — the woman at the well, Lazarus being raised from the dead, the many healing stories — to read. CONSIDER how these were good news for them and LOOK for the good news of Jesus flowing through your life's story.

Then, ASK God to point out one or two people this week who need the good news that Jesus proclaimed. PRAY for them and as open doors of opportunity come, OBEY the Spirit's leading and go "fishing"! Share with them the good news that has changed your life.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

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