

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

2015 VISION: *Redeem the Time!*

Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 8

Scriptures for Today: Mark 1:14-20

Title of Today's Message: *Follow Christ – He will make you to become fishers of men!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we concluded our study of the **temptations** of Jesus Christ by the devil. We were able to see how He used the all-powerful Word of God to defeat them. Today, we will pick up from our Easter message related to the **FIRST WORDS** of Jesus in the book of Mark. As a reminder, the **first words** He spoke in Mark were, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”* The **second words** He spoke in Mark were, *“Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.”* The focus for our message today is why we exist on earth after we are saved. If we are truly following Jesus, then He promised that He would **MAKE us to become fishers of MEN!**

PREACHING NOTES

1. When Jesus called the disciples to **FOLLOW** Him, *they forsook all* and *followed Him*.

- ✓ To become a **follower of Jesus Christ**, the message was **REPENT ye**, and **BELIEVE the gospel...**
Acts 17:30-31; 26:15-20; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2 Timothy 2:23-26; 1 John 5:11-12

John 1:12-13 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 John 5:11-12 – And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

2. It was **understood** that *“to Follow Christ”* meant *“to **BECOME** fishers of men.”*

- ✓ If you are **following Jesus Christ**, He said He would **MAKE YOU** to **BECOME** a **fisher of men...**

Consider what the Bible says about the word “make”...

1st Mention of *“make”* is Genesis 1:26; Leviticus 26:1; 1 Samuel 12:22; Jeremiah 23:16; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 1:8; Psalm 95:6; Proverbs 22:2; Isaiah 17:7; Hebrews 11:10

John 8:32 – And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall **make you** free.

Isaiah 45:9 – Woe unto him that striveth with **his Maker!** Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth, What maketh thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

NOTE If as a result of following Jesus Christ, He promises to **make** us to become fishers of men, then the question must be asked, *“Have we become fishers of men?”* If Jesus did not **make** us to become a person that is continually found doing the work of an evangelist, then are we **FOLLOWING HIM?**

Consider what the Bible says about the word “become”...

1st mention of *“become”* is Genesis 3:22; John 1:12; Exodus 4:9; 7:9; Romans 3:19; 4:18; 6:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17

John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power **to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold **all things are become new**.

NOTE To **become** a fisher of men is to be transformed in such a way that your life's **passion** and **vocation** is that of a fisher of men. Hebrews 13:8 says, *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* He has not changed. Have we then? Maybe we need to repent and follow Him more closely!

The key to catching fish is to fish...

Matthew 4:19; John 1:35-41; Luke 5:4, 10

Personal 1:1 **Matthew 17:47** – Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up...

Small Net **Matthew 4:18** – And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Big Net **Matthew 13:47** – Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

NOTE As an old preacher once said, the key to catching fish is to fish! You will never catch any fish unless you fish. *“Let down your nets for a draught.”* Pass out tracts. Go to nursing homes. Go to the mall. Get out there on the street corner and preach the Bible. Go to the jails. Go to rescue missions. Get out there and knock on doors. Go to the Memorial Day parade and the Canal Days festival. **FISH!!!**

OLD QUOTES FROM PREACHERS AND MISSIONARIES NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

“In every revival there is a re-emphasis of the Church’s missionary character. Men return to Calvary, and the world is seen afresh through the eyes of Christ. The infinite compassion of Christ fills the heart, and the passion evoked by Calvary demands the whole wide world as the fruit of His sacrifice.”

“Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ.” (Missionary to India, Philippines, and Japan)

“God uses people. God uses people to perform His work. He does not send angels. Angels weep over it, but God does not use angels to accomplish His purposes. He uses burdened, broken-hearted weeping men and women.” (David Wilkerson)

“If your Gospel isn’t touching others, it hasn’t touched you!”

“Someone once asked, Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we – who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not – can be saved.” (Charles Spurgeon)

“Not called! did you say? Not heard the call, I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father’s house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face – whose mercy you have professed to obey – and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.” (William Booth)

“While women weep, as they do now, I’ll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I’ll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight; I’ll fight to the very end!” (William Booth)

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” (Hudson Taylor)

“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.”

❖ Personal Application

- Surely, God spoke to you today through His Word. What does He want you to **DO?**

Mark 1:17 ...Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.