

mrk03 – **Answer the Call – Mark 1:16-20**

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Jesus **BEGAN** his **ministry** around the **Sea of Galilee**
(which you really need to come see with us, next Feb)

Last week – we **ended** with **Jesus** Coming **into** the area
of the **Sea of Galilee**

Proclaiming that the **Kingdom of God** was **at hand** –
& **calling** for **Repentance**, & **Faith** – **In Response**

Today – we **Pick up** Mark's **Fast-Paced Gospel**
With **Jesus** – **CALLING** the **First Disciples**

& **my prayer** today – is **that** you would **See the POWER**
of **one** of the most **famous acts** of **Christ-Following** - in history

Let's Pray

- **Jesus** began his **ministry** with a **RADICAL MESSAGE**
- **Then** he **issued** a **RADICAL CALL** – to **Follow Him**
- **Today** – we see the **1st Four Disciples**
Respond in **RADICAL OBEDIENCE**

We **start** today – with **MARK 1:16-18**
& I'm **going** to **use the ESV** for these **Vs's**

Because there is **one Critical PHRASE** here
that **I want us to SEE** Clearly

Mark 1:16–18 (ESV)

16 *Passing* (walking) *alongside the Sea of Galilee*, he (Jesus) saw Simon (Peter) *and* Andrew *the brother of Simon* *casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.*

17 *And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”* (that’s the critical phrase)

18 *And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

Believe me – when you Walk on the shores of the Sea of Galilee

it is not hard (at all) – to envision Jesus walking there
OR to Envision – THIS Event happening

Certainly Jesus was walking along the Northern Shore
Near Capernaum

Which is where WE experience this event - when we go

Jesus is walking where he KNEW Fishermen would be fishing

& he was looking for 4 specific men
Who he KNEW - would be in this area

In vs.16 – when it says Jesus SAW Them

It doesn’t mean – “*a random notice of a random person*”

It means – Jesus SAW, the men he was looking for

& when Jesus **DID See** Them – He issued
a **CLEAR & DIRECT CALL** for them to **Follow Him**

Which meant – them leaving behind their **Old Life**
& beginning an entirely **NEW life** – With Him

<u>It was a CALL – Followed by a PROMISE</u>

The CALL is - Follow Me

The PROMISE is - I will make you BECOME fishers of men (v.17)
Or – it could be - **I will make you INTO fishers of men**

& so – in his **Very first Calling** of a **Disciple** – Jesus says

IF you will - FOLLOW ME
I will - MAKE YOU INTO – what I created you TO BE

That is the **Promise** – of the **Lord of Heaven**

that **HE** will **COMPLETE**
the work that **HE** has **BEGUN in US**

IF we will Commit to **FOLLOW** Him
& **NEVER Stop Following** Him

Honestly guys – I get “WORN OUT” watching Christians
ONLY Follow Jesus

Until he commands them
to do something they Don't WANT to Do

& then they so easily TURN from Him
& Follow after - their Own Desires

Please – Don't BE like THAT

Commit to Follow Jesus – No Matter What
& you will RECEIVE the Promise of the Lord of Heaven

that He will COMPLETE the Good Work
that He has Begun in you

& he will ENABLE you TO DO
What He Created you TO DO

& listen to this – Pls

WHEN Jesus Called, these first two Disciples

& He was Actually CALLING them - to Take The NEXT STEP –
AFTER they had ALREADY put their FAITH in HIM

Because this was NOT the 1st time Jesus
had met these 2 fishermen

John Ch 1 explains that **ANDREW** (who we **see here** w/ Peter)
& **JOHN** (who we are **about to see**)

were **Disciples** of **John the Baptist**

& **together** - they **LEFT John the Baptist**
& **began** Following **Jesus** in **John 1:37**

But – **initially** – they **did not Leave**
their **business** & their **livelihood behind**

Because Initially - they **DID NOT KNOW** - **The Full Extent**
Of what Jesus was **CALLING THEM TO**

& **isn't it** most often - the **SAME** with **US**

Almost always – our **initial Commitment** to **Follow** Jesus

is **us Putting** our **FAITH** in him as our **SAVIOR**
& **REPENTING** from the **Sin** in our **Life**

But then – Jesus ALWAYS calls us – to a Deeper Following

For most of us – Jesus **does NOT** call us
to **Forsake EVERYTHING** in our **Current Life**

Most Often – **Jesus calls** us to a **Deeper** & **Deeper Following** of him
WITHIN our current life

But **for some** – **Jesus** makes the **Most Radical Call**
& **Requires** the **Most Radical Obedience**

But – **NO MATTER** How **RADICAL**
the **Personal Call** of Jesus – IS

Becoming a True Christ-Follower means

Wherever Jesus LEADS me – I will FOLLOW

& so – Mark 1:18 (ESV)

18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

THAT – is Radical Obedience

- **NOT** knowing **WHERE** Jesus would **take them**
- **NOT** knowing **WHAT following** Jesus would **really mean**
- **NOT** thinking twice, **about** what they were **required**
to **LEAVE BEHIND**

they just - immediately left their nets and followed him.

Continuing in - Mark 1:19-20 (ESV)

19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.

20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**This time – the word “IMMEDIATELY” is used
of Jesus calling these next two brothers**

Implying - **NO chit-chat – NO small-talk –**

JUST - The CALL

**w/o even the promise of Making them into “Fishers of Men” -
Altho we assume they'd hear about that soon enough**

But **this** was **ALSO NOT** the **first commitment** to **Jesus** –
for **at least** for **ONE** of these **brothers**

THIS John – is the **Apostle John** - who **was** (with Andrew)
a **disciple** of **John the Baptist**

& who **also left John the Baptist** to **follow** Jesus – in **John Ch 1**

But — **John BECAME** a **Follower** of Jesus
& **ALSO went back** to the **Family Business**
just as Andrew & Peter did

UNTIL He Answered – The Full Force – of The CALL

What is incredible is – There is another text – in Luke Ch 5

Where these same FOUR Disciples were fishing together, AGAIN

Possibly in the early days

of them Answering the Call to Follow Jesus

& there – Jesus gives them a Miraculous catch of fish

Maybe to give them confidence that he COULD - & WOULD DO,
what he promised to DO - in their lives

But – We have to Remember

these are REAL PEOPLE – in REAL LIFE

Whose FAITH is Growing over time – - JUST LIKE US

But Eventually – ANSWERING the CALL of Jesus

Took these Disciples - to Greater Depths
than they could have EVER IMAGINED

We can't know – How Deep – or How Far

Answering The Call of Jesus – is going to take us, personally

But – the WILLINGNESS – in Answering the Call

Is EXACTLY the SAME – for every one of us

Later in Mark's Gospel - Jesus SPELLS OUT

The “All-In” WILLINGNESS – that is Required
to Answer the Call to Truly Follow Him

In Mark 8:34–35 - Jesus says - (NLT)

34 . . . “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

No matter what Jesus calls us to - Personally

We are ALL CALLED
to Surrender our FULL lives to Him

To Allow him - to Lead us & Guide us – for HIS Name's Sake!

Next – Notice that these 1st Disciples - were Fishermen

in fact, SEVEN of the original 12 Disciples – were Fishermen

Now – I hold Fishermen in very high regard
& professional fishermen even more so

BUT – it is Probably NOT the trade – that you & I would look to
to begin an eternal, worldwide spiritual revolution!

But with a **hand-full** of fishermen

Jesus began his '**World Changing' movement** – that has **covered the globe** and is **still transforming lives** - **2,000 years** later

There is **NO religious movement** in History – that **can make the claims** – that **Christianity can make** after **2,000 years**

& **the fact** that **Jesus started** it with a **few Fisherman** is just **1 of 100 proofs** – that **THIS** – is the **Work of GOD ALONE**

As Paul says in - 1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (NLT)

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you.

27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

THAT is **Actually** what is **happening** when **Jesus calls you** to **Follow him** - & **Serve Him**

You **ANSWER the Call** - & **Continue to Follow Him**
& **He Brings** the **POWER** – to **change the world** around **you**

& Finally – Let me reiterate – to close

**Answering the CALL – to Truly Follow Jesus
Is OFTEN – A PROCESS**

Which **we've SEEN here** – in the **multiple times**
the **first Disciples- Answered the CALL** to **Follow Jesus**

Now – we're **very careful NOT to IMPLY**
That **there** is a **PROCESS** to **SALVATION itself**

Salvation is Immediate
it is **BY FAITH ALONE** – with **NO works added**

That means there is nothing **you NEED to DO**
& **there** is nothing **you CAN DO** – to **EARN your salvation**

When you **put** your **Full Faith & Trust** in Jesus
as your **Savior** & **Lord** – **You ARE Saved** – **right then & there**

HOWEVER

IF . . . TRUE Salvation - HAS come into **YOUR LIFE**

The Bible says . . . there **WILL Begin a PROCESS**
of You - **Answering the Call** to **Follow** Jesus

The <u>Theological term</u> for this Process – is <u>SANCTIFICATION</u>

Sanctification is the **Process** of us being **TRANSFORMED**
By the **Life of Jesus Christ** – **In Us**

The **word SANCTIFIED** also **means** –
To be Set Apart for God's Use

This is **what is happening** - in **our text** today
to the **1st Disciples**

Their Salvation occurred in **Jn Ch 1** - -
THEN Here, the **Process** of their **SANCTIFICATION Begins**

These **four Fishermen** – have **just** been **“Set Apart for God's Use”**
& **when** they **ANSWER The CALL** – to **Fully Follow Jesus**

Jesus promises them - **HE** Will **Complete**
the work that **he has begun** in them

THEIR ROLE will be - to **Follow Him** – **In Obedience**

HIS ROLE will be – to **complete** the **plan and purpose**
that he has for **each** of their **lives** – **individually**

& it is **exactly the same** with **us today**

When you **put** your **Full Faith** in **Jesus Christ**
as **SAVIOR** & **LORD** - **you are SAVED**

& that SALVATION begins a PROCESS
of you Answering the Call – to Truly Follow Jesus

& then - Jesus Makes you Into
the person he created you to be – AS you are Following Him

He may call you to leave everything,
& go make disciples in the Amazon Jungle

& that could be the 'Actual' Amazon Jungle in Brazil

OR that could be in the Amazon Jungle
of the world's largest retailer

OR – that Call could be - just as well - in your own home
as a Husband & Father, or Wife & Mother

Ephesians 2:8–10 explains this perfectly (NLT)

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

This is what we see happening here – in the 1st Disciples

They are **BECOMING** God's masterpiece
so they can Do - what God planned for them to DO long ago
& that is Exactly what will happen to You & I

If WE will Answer the Call to Truly Follow Jesus
All In – All Ways – Until the End

it doesn't matter – if you were 1 of the first 4 disciples
or if you Answer the Call of Jesus TODAY

either way – the Process is the SAME

When you put your full faith in Jesus Christ – You are SAVED!

& then – there is always REPENTANCE involved –
a turning away from Sin (& Self-Lordship) - & turning TO Jesus

& then comes – Answering the CALL to Always Follow him

First - You put your FAITH in Jesus – as your Savior
Then - You TURN - from Sin - to Him – as your Lord
Then - You FOLLOW Him – Always - as a Disciple

This is the way it has ALWAYS been
since the calling of the 1st Disciples on the Sea of Galilee

So – allow me to ask you
WHERE are you - in this “Process” today?

If you need - to PUT your FAITH in Jesus - As Your Savior
do that today

If you need - to TURN FROM your Sin & TURN TO Him As Lord
do that today

If you need - to Commit to FOLLOW Him Always - as a Disciple
do that today

& He will MAKE YOU INTO
What HE Created You TO BE

YOU will be his MASTERPIECE,
created anew in Christ Jesus,

so that you can do the good things
he has had planned for you all along

ANSWER the CALL

The LORD of HEAVEN – is Calling You – Personally!

Let's Pray