

The Gospel According to Mark Called To Follow

Key Idea: Identity is not discovered by observing Jesus, but by following Him.

- Following Jesus isn't just believing in Him; it's reordering your life around His lordship.

Mark 1:17 (NIV)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said...

- Identity isn't formed by agreement. It's formed by obedience.

- **JESUS CALLS ORDINARY PEOPLE INTO EXTRAORDINARY IDENTITY**

Mark 1:16 (NIV)

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.

Mark 1:17 (NET)

Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people!"

- *Come:* relationship
- *Follow Me:* obedience
- *I will turn you into:* transformation

- **FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES IMMEDIATE TRUST**

Mark 1:18 (TLV)

Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

- **Following Jesus is not delayed obedience.**

- **IDENTITY CHANGE ALWAYS INVOLVES LEAVING SOMETHING BEHIND**

Mark 1:18 (NET)

They *left their nets* immediately and followed him.

- Following Jesus requires letting go.

Mark 1:19-20 (NET)

Going on a little farther, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother in their boat mending nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- Following Jesus may challenge relationships, expectations, and plans, but it

always leads to something greater.

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GRACE CALLS US BEFORE WE HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER

Mark 2:13-14 (NIV)

Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

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- Jesus does not call people because they are worthy; He calls them because He is gracious.

Mark 2:15-16 (NIV)

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Mark 2:17 (NIV)

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

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- Identity is not built on moral superiority; It's built on mercy and grace.
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- FOLLOWING JESUS REDEFINES OUR SELF-IMAGE, OUR VIEW OF OTHERS, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE WAY WE LIVE.**

When identity is formed by following Jesus:

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- We stop defining ourselves by our past
 - We stop ranking others by their failures
 - We begin living from grace, not performance

Following Jesus changes:

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- Our priorities
 - Our relationships
 - Our purpose
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- Following Jesus means aligning my identity, obedience, and direction with Christ; no longer living for myself but living under His lordship and for His purposes.
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- Identity is not formed by standing still; it's formed by following Jesus step by step.