

Full Transcription

Radio Host (00:00:16) - Today on light of the word with Pastor Ray.

Pastor Ray And Andrew followed. And then here we see an immediate James and John follow. And what I just want to challenge. Hence he called you to do something immediately. And have you done it? Have you responded? May we respond quickly? Jesus has a purpose. He's calling these men. And the word follow. Listen. Means don't look.

Radio Host (00:01:37) - All throughout the Gospels, we read a steady and consistent pattern of what Jesus expects of those who take interest in his message. Deny yourself. Pick up your cross and follow me. The question we must ask ourselves is how our lives contrast to this very calling. In today's message, Pastor Ray will encourage you to reflect on the state of your walk with the Lord. In his study, you'll learn about the importance of wholeheartedly following Christ without looking back to the former things.

Radio Host (00:02:09) - Well, let's join Pastor Ray in the Book of Mark, chapter one for today's edition of Light of the Word.

Pastor Ray (00:02:15) - We're going to see a fourfold purpose. And in his ministry and saying words in red, the time is fulfilled one and the kingdom of God is at hand to three. Repent and four believe in the gospel. So the first one, it starts with and it says the time is fulfilled. Jesus isn't just say it's my time. There's a whole. Doctrinal and theological string. That brings us up to this one statement. And we could spend a year just on that in seminary. But John, chapter one, verse 17, here's what Jesus is saying. It's the end of the law and the prophets. It's not that they're done away with. It's time for God to work through grace and truth. Jesus Christ for the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ, Matthew 11:11. Jesus. Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of a woman, there has not risen a one greater than John the Baptist, but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Pastor Ray (00:03:30) - That's you and me. Because we have the time has been fulfilled and we get to do this. The power of this ministry under the the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the empowering of the Holy Spirit to point to the fulfillment of He who is grace and truth through Jesus Christ. And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force for all the prophets and the law prophesied Until John, the law and the prophets are over. That's it. There was a time where the law and the prophets came. But now it's grace and truth. But it doesn't wash away the law and the prophets. Galatians three four. There's a purpose behind the law. And now Jesus is going to fulfill the law. The purpose behind the law is to prove that no man could keep God's holy law, holy Word, and enter into heaven based on I've done it. I've, I've kept all your commandments my whole life. And now I can come into heaven on my own merits.

Pastor Ray (00:04:30) - Every man failed. Galatians 3:24 tells us. Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight. For by the law is knowledge of sin. The purpose of the law is to show that every man is guilty before the

Holy God. It's not washed away. It's just been fulfilled that it shows that it cannot be kept in. Every man is guilty even still today. And then grace and truth. Second Corinthians 5:21. For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. There's the grace and truth, the fulfillment, the time has come. And the next day. John 1:29 John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Pastor Ray (00:05:40) - So Jesus first is He's putting an end. The law and the prophets was a time it's a distance called dispensation. We'll pick that up in another study. But now it's the time of grace and truth. And then he comes and he says. And the Kingdom of God is at hand. Boy, you could study that for a year in seminary. What is the Kingdom of God? And you can go through all these periods of time and look into the millennial kingdom, the eternal kingdom. And let me just sum it up here for our study today. You know what the kingdom of God is? It's where the king is. Wherever the king is, is the kingdom of God and our King Jesus is walking amongst us. And wherever King Jesus is walking, there is the kingdom of God, and he's standing before them. The Kingdom of God is before you. The law and the prophets, the prophesied of the Messiah. The King coming is here. Prepare the way of the Lord as we study.

Pastor Ray (00:06:36) - Two two weeks ago. The King is before you. The Kingdom of God is standing before you and offering you entry into the kingdom. And here's the fourth. The third point. And here's how you enter in to the kingdom. Repent. The entry into the kingdom goes via the way of repentance. The first words out of Jesus's public ministry. Is repent. Metanoia. Change your direction. How often is that the first word in today's gospel? How often is it even spoken? First word of Jesus public ministry. We read repent first words out of John's public ministry that we read in the days of John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Acts 2:38 Peter's first sermon after Pentecost. First sermon ever preached. In it after preparation of the history of the law and the prophets. Then Peter said to them, Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Ray (00:08:10) - God. Cannot. Change your heart. Until you change your mind. Repentance means to change one's mind. We need to change our mind of what we think sin is. We need to change our mind, what we think about God, and we need to come to this is what God says. This is what God requires. And all the way. John preached a baptism of repentance. Baptism means full immersion. He's saying a full immersion into repentance, into the turning, into the changing. And listen, this is you can sit here and go as he preaching. I thought he was a teacher. Is he preaching today? I'm telling you. I hope God speaks your heart. Repentance to me is a symphony. Of love. And it is sung by a father, son and Holy Spirit. And he sings this sweet song, Ray. You can be washed. You can be cleansed. You can be forgiven. Ray, I will show you a way to power Ray. I will show you the way to an abundant marriage.

Pastor Ray (00:09:39) - If you do it my way, Ray, I will show you a way to abundant spiritual life. If you will fully believe in me and follow my way. Ray, I will show you an abundant life. Filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. If you'll change your mind about what you think they are and how they are to be and to receive and just receive my way completely. Oh, it's a symphony. And it was bought by the blood of Jesus Christ. And he offers it and extends that to us today. It's a symphony. I don't know. I. I do not know why. Pastors, teachers, preachers are afraid to speak that word. I got bolt cutters. That will break any chain that binds you. And that bolt cutter is called repentance. Because when you turn from that thing that is binding you and

dogging you and you take the bolt cutters of repentance and say, I changed my mind about these things and I'm going to follow after Jesus.

Pastor Ray (00:10:56) - I'm not just going to follow. I'm going to follow hard. After Jesus, you will be set free. And Jesus says the entry is by repentance. And then to believe, Here's what I believe means. And I always say, I'll save you four years of Bible college. Believe means recognize, repent, receive. That is the gospel in its simplest form. Recognize that we need a savior. So this is for anyone here today. If you do not know Jesus Christ, if you were to die tonight, would you know that you're going to heaven? Here's how you will know and you can answer it today before you leave this place. You can answer it in the next two minutes right there in your seat. Recognize a need for a savior. Romans three all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We have all sinned and we have broken God's holy law. We're separated from him, and we need to come and go. It's not my mother's fault. It's not my environment.

Pastor Ray (00:11:51) - It's not the way that I was raised. It's my sin. And I've broken God's holy law, the law and the prophets. And I turn from there for. Romans 3:19 through 29. We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law. That's the purpose of the law and the profit that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. This is New Covenant. This is New Testament teaching. This is an Old Testament. This is the entryway. Therefore, by the deeds of the law, no flesh will be justified in the sight. For by the law is the knowledge of sin. And secondly, as we just discussed, repent first words out of Jesus's mouth. The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe. Turn. Change my mind about my sin, about my offense before the Holy God. And thirdly, receive. Romans ten eight through 13. But what does it say? The word is near to you in your mouth, in in your heart.

Pastor Ray (00:12:53) - That is the word of faith which we preach, that if you confess, that means to agree with your mouth, the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made onto salvation. For the Scripture says whoever believes on him will not be put to shame. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek for the same Lord over all and all is rich to all who call upon him. Verse 13. Listen for who? Whoever calls on the name of the Lord Jesus shall be saved. There are some people today, and I know it. You've gone through religion your whole life. You believe everything that I just said? But you have never with your mouth said. And confessed, Lord my sin all by believing in my heart. If we confess with our mouth. And I'm not saying you got to do that publicly, as it's been said and declared. But it is clearly stated here.

Pastor Ray (00:14:00) - That salvation must come through. Confession of your mouth. So the Lord Jesus. And then some of you say, I believe this. My whole life I've been going to church my whole life. Have you ever had a time where with your mouth you says, I confess the Lord Jesus? I agree with you. My sin separates you. And I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead. See, the power of this gospel is the resurrection because it proves that God accepted the substitute where Jesus took your sin. He who knew no sin became sin for you so that we might become the righteousness right before God. There's a place in your mouth that you say that if you've never done that, you can do it right now. But you need to do it. This Jesus is preaching. Here's the entryway into the Kingdom of God. The law and the prophets prepared the way the Kingdom of God is before you right now, just like us today. And he's a calling to repent, to change your mind, to turn from the ways that you're going and to follow after Jesus.

Pastor Ray (00:15:06) - And then make this public profession, make this confession before the Lord, recognize, repent and receive. It looks like something Oh, glory to God. And then just preparing us for here's some men that we're going to be getting to know real close. Some awesome men. Let's take a look. Verse 16 through 17. And as he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, words and read, Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men. Verse 18, They immediately left their net and followed him. This is not the first time. Jesus wasn't just walking down. As we read the other gospels, Jesus isn't just walking down. Hey, you to follow me. What we read in other accounts is that Andrew Simon, Peter's brother, he was actually John the Baptist's disciple. And when Jesus came on the scene, he's like, That's the one we're waiting for.

Pastor Ray (00:16:18) - He comes up, Master Jesus. You can picture that Jesus turned. Yeah. Where are you eating lunch today? He doesn't know what to say. Jesus says Come and see. So he goes. He spends time with Jesus. Then he comes back. This is the Messiah. Goes tells his brother Peter, We found the one we've been talking to. You youth. Andrew Loud led his sibling to the Lord. And I challenge you. It's in you. It's upon you. God will equip you to share that good news with your sibling and then vest and say, I found the Messiah. I know this is the one. So Andrew leads Peter and they hear Jesus. Now Jesus, He's on his walk and he's got a purpose. And he's going to only who knows how many hundreds of yards later he's going to call James and John. But he's on a purpose. This is the day after a year. They've heard about him. They've been hearing him preach and whatnot. This is the day that Jesus is going to stop and say, Follow me, I got something for you and I'm calling you to come and follow me and notice that what Jesus says.

Pastor Ray (00:17:35) - For they were fishermen. Jesus said, Follow me. That's their response. And here he says, and I will make you fishers of men. There's no pressure. There's no here's our responsibility. I follow you, and then it's up to Jesus. I will equip you. You follow me, and I will equip you. I'll make you the fisherman. You don't have to work it up and. And do all these things. I will make you the fisherman. All you got to do is follow me. And so here they do. They follow Jesus. He equips them. We're going to see they will become great fishers of men. But you know what I find interesting is every one Jesus called through the gospels that we studied, they were all working. Interesting to me. They were all working. And I think what we see here is. Is there's an ethic that comes through work. There's something in that integrity of working and working hard and honestly, that translates so well into the ministry. And here we see these guys, fishermen.

Pastor Ray (00:18:42) - What great attributes? Fishermen, man, that's a hard. I think seven of the 12. You got to get up early. You got to be faithful. You never know what day is the day that you're going to catch fish. You wake up early. Sometimes it's a total dud and sometimes it's a total harvest. And here's what I find in the interesting life of evangelism like fishing. You just got to cast and cast and cast and cast. There's a lot of casting in fishing and there's a lot of missing in fishing, but oh, there's always at some point some type of catching. And so we cast and we cast. So these men, they were workers and Jesus calls them. I just find that interesting and I find that interesting in that. God calls people who are working. They have this ethic. He uses these type of things in them. He equips them. But sometimes then because of our business savvy, our work ethic, we think we can bring that into the church. We think that the church needs to be run like a business, and we got to apply the business principles and the marketing principles and these type of things.

Pastor Ray (00:19:57) - And there's no then I'm saying what you find is you're running the church, you're running your ministry, whatever ministry you're involved, you're running it like a business. You're putting everything in order. And this is how we do it at work and it works at work. And then sometimes it even works in the church. And then I'll say, you've just locked the spirit of God out here. We see now. Follow Jesus. Let him equip. Let him lead. And I close with verse nine, 19 and 20, when he had gone a little further from there, he saw James, the son of Zebedee and John, his brother, who also were in the boats mending their net. Not the first time these guys either, and immediately called them and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with their hired servants and went after him. So here we see an immediate that we see Peter and Andrew follow. And then here we see an immediate James and John follow. And what I just want to challenge.

Pastor Ray (00:20:52) - Has he called you to do something immediately? And have you done it? Have you responded? May we respond quickly? Jesus has a purpose. He's calling these men. And the word follow. Listen. Means don't look back. And these men won't look back. Everybody knows. Everybody knows who John the Baptist is. Andrew and Peter know who John the Baptist is. And yet everybody knows John the Baptist is paying the price for his obedience. He's in prison for paying the price, and his obedience is to the Word of God preaching and pointing to Jesus Christ. And Jesus comes and says, Follow me. And they do. Even though they know the danger that is out there here, James and John. They're going to leave all the security that they had in their father's business. He's got hired servants. Business must be booming, and yet they follow. So again, I say to youth. Even adults regardless of your age. God knows not me. But I know. Because I've been there.

Pastor Ray (00:22:15) - It can be hard to follow Jesus without looking back. Knowing that behind you, are your parents going. What are you doing? What happened to you? Are you serious? You're going to follow Jesus. What's this going to do for your career? Are you serious? You're going to follow Jesus, not look back. This could be dangerous for your life. People can think you're crazy or. Or whatever it may be, and there's just a place to go. You know what? God encourages you. God calls out. You don't look back. Don't look back and worry about what your parents think and don't look back and let your parents hold you back. You just got to follow. And we're going to see James and John, their mother. Is going to come. To Christ. We have no understanding about his father. We don't know. But we know. Mother came and did mother come because of the witness of the sons? We will know in heaven. We have an American mentality. And our American mentality as we have been taught.

Pastor Ray (00:23:23) - Is what's in it for me? And what we've seen through our passage today. It's not about what's in it for me. Trials of glorification. It is about the Kingdom of God and bringing the glory to God. And what's in it for me? Doesn't matter. It's what's in it for God. The lamb who is worthy to receive the reward of his suffering.

Radio Host (00:24:09) - Thanks for joining us to learn from the book of Mark on light of the Word. We hope that today's message has reminded you of the great love your Creator has for you and how much he desires to be a part of your life. As you've been listening to Pastor Ray's message today, you may have found there's some questions you'd like answered. We'd love the opportunity to answer them as best we can. So please send us an email at mail@ccaac.org. Let us know, too, how we can be lifting you up in prayer.

Radio Host (00:24:43) - That email address again is mail@ccaac.org. Light of the word is created and produced from the services Pastor Ray shares at Calvary Chapel of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. And we'd love for you to learn more about who we are and why we're sharing the gospel message. Visit our website at CCAAC.org. And while you're there, sign up for our weekly newsletter and connect with us on Facebook or Twitter. You'll also discover a number of resources available to help you study the Bible and grow in your relationship with the Lord. That website again is CCAAC.org. Thanks for joining us today. Our time with you has come to a close, but we encourage you to continue reading in the book of Mark. We hope you'll join us again here on light of the word illuminating the heart of God.