



1

(Title Slide)



2

There is something about an alarm that is . . . well, alarming.

-- Whether it is the traditional old-school two bells being struck by a hammer . . .

-- OR the civil defense horn that is tested on the first Saturday at 1:00 . . .

-- . . . we must respond to the incessant sound.

TR: My fear is that many people have hit the snooze button . . . or perhaps the . . .



3

... mute button.

-- We turned on the DO NOT DISTURB function on our phones and we wonder why we haven't gotten any calls or texts.

-- Could it be that we've done the same thing to the Gospel of Jesus?

-- Perhaps it just doesn't wake us up like it should ... but why?

TR: Today I want to put the alarm back into alarming. I

want to remind us how RADICAL . . .

3



4

. . . READ SLIDE . . . really is.

-- The Gospel, Good News, Glad Tidings of Jesus Christ, Son of God, is NOT ELEVATOR MUSIC.

-- Perhaps some of us have lost our first love for Jesus because we have muted the alarming news.

TR: in Mark 1:14-28, we read of . . .



5

. . . READ SLIDE

TR: Let's begin in verse 14

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, **proclaiming the gospel of God,** ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

ESV

6

READ SLIDE (verse 14)

-- Jesus came calling out loudly the gospel of God (FROM GOD AND ABOUT GOD).

TR: This gospel wakes us up because it is . . .



7

(Blow air horn) . . . a radical gospel!

TR: Note the three descriptions that summarize Jesus' proclamation . . .

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, **“The time is fulfilled,** and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

ESV

8

“The time is fulfilled”

-- what time? The time of God fulfilling His promises of a Christ, a Messiah, an Anointed One to save His people.
-- The word used here suggests that Mark wants us to **NOT JUST THINK OF CHRONOLOGICAL TIME** but of the **DECISIVE TIME** of God to break through.

TR: Jesus’ radical gospel proclaimed that . . .

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel.”

ESV

9

... “the kingdom of God is at hand”
-- the kingdom, the reign of God, is near.

-- The REALM of the kingdom awaits the return of Jesus, but with the King’s first coming so came the REIGN of His kingdom.

-- It is near . . . it impacts us, though we still await even more.

TR: The radical gospel is not designed to LULLABY US TO SLEEP. IT DEMANDS A RESPONSE.

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**”

ESV

10

**Jesus proclaimed . . . “repent and believe in the gospel.”
-- Every time we hear the alarm of the gospel go off . . .
it is a call to respond, to act.**

TR: Jesus comes with a . . .



READ SLIDE

- If we think we are proclaiming the gospel of God and we do NOT call for a response . . .
- . . . then we are merely playing the elevator music of religion.
- Cf. evangelism: "not always closing the deal" but yet making clear that a decision is called for.
- You cannot hear about Jesus and His Kingdom and then do nothing . . . you either follow Him or you don't.
- We either get out of bed or we pull the pillow over our heads.

-- IT IS A RADICAL GOSPEL THAT REQUIRES A RADICAL RESPONSE. 11

TR: The alarming news about Jesus continues in verse 16 . . .

Mark 1:16-18

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “**Follow me**, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

ESV

12

READ SLIDE

- The call is to “fall in line behind Him” (Witherington)
- Then, the word used down in verse 18 a key term referring to discipleship.
- It is asking for a commitment that makes all other commitments secondary.
- It was never used of a Rabbi’s students, for the students chose their Rabbi.
- Here, the radical Jesus chooses them . . . commands them to follow Him.

TR: Jesus says to these professional fishermen .1.2

Mark 1:16-18

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and **I will make you become fishers of men.**” ¹⁸And **immediately** they left their nets and followed him.

ESV

13

... “I will make you become fishers of men.”

-- In the OT/Hebrew Scriptures, the imagery of fishing is of pulling people out, often to be judged.

-- Here it seems to be about pulling them out of judgment.

TR: Then in verse 18 we run into our title word . . . READ SLIDE . . .



. . . immediately.

-- Fishing for men is necessary because we must “confront men with God’s decisive action” (Lane, p. 68)

-- The Kingdom of God is near . . . it requires a critical and decisive response right now!

-- Mark is calling us to action . . . to respond to the alarming news about Jesus and His radical Gospel

TR: But also to His . . .



15

(Blow air horn) . . . radical call to discipleship.

-- “They left their nets and followed Him.”

-- This radical call is to leave all your loyalties behind . . . they ALL must fall subservient to Jesus’ radical call.

-- The alarming, radical Jesus will hear nothing of our attempts at having a PRE-NUPTIAL -LIKE contract with Him.

TR: Our church mission statement . . . some version of which must be the mission for all Christ-followers and their churches and organizations . . . is to . . .

The logo features the words 'WIN & GROW' in large, bold, green letters at the top. Below this, 'DISCIPLES' is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. Underneath 'DISCIPLES' is the phrase 'WHO SHOW ALLEGIANCE TO' in a very small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word 'JESUS' is written in the largest, bold, green letters, with a slight shadow effect. The entire logo is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**WIN
&
GROW**
DISCIPLES
WHO SHOW ALLEGIANCE TO
JESUS

16

READ SLIDE

- The radical gospel says, “This is it! The kingdom of God is here! Repent and believe!”
- Jesus then radically calls us to follow Him as Lord.
- We’ve put the alarm on mute or do not disturb if everything we have, all we love, is not available to Him.
- EX: Wanting to be baptized holding our swords out of the water . . . or our wallets, or our marriages, or our dating practices, or our obsession with alcohol or

**marijuana, or . . . even our love for our family and
our country . . .**

-- . . . THIS IS ALARMING!

**TR: This radical call to discipleship continues in verse
19**

Mark 1:19-20

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

ESV

17

READ SLIDE

- These two young men, elsewhere called the Sons of Thunder . . .**
- seemingly not poor, since their father not only had a boat but also hired hands.**
- IMMEDIATELY Jesus called them . . .**

TR: The alarm has gone off, blasting out . . .



18

READ SLIDE

-- This radical call is for all of us, not just missionaries and pastors.

TR: But, John Wesley's words to pastors, spoke deeply into my soul, as I asked God to turn up the volume on His alarm clock for me . . .

***John Wesley in his covenanting service
created in the 1740s for his growing
Methodist movement:***

"This taking of His yoke upon us means we are heartily content that He appoint us our place and work, and that He alone be our reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach;

19

READ SLIDE

TR: Wesley continues . . .

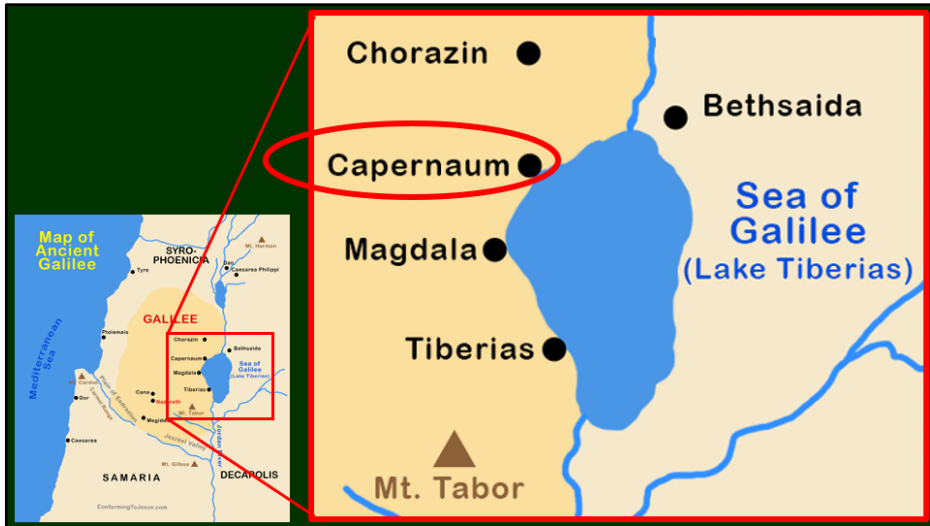
some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we can not please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us **in Christ**, who strengthens us."

20

READ SLIDE

-- Why do we need to be built up IN CHRIST, because that is the only way we can have the power to do what He demands of us to do . . . to follow Him!

TR: Mark then quickly moves the story from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to . . .



... the town of Capernaum.

-- Sea of Galilee is about 13x8 miles

TR: If you travel to Capernaum today . . .



. . . you will find many excavations of “the Town of Jesus.”

-- Including the foundation of a synagogue. The white stones of from centuries after Jesus, but perhaps the black rock foundation was from the very synagogue mentioned.

-- Whether it is or not, the key thing is to remember that this is real history, not just story making.

TR: Pick it up in verse 21 . . .

Mark 1:21-22

And they went into Capernaum, and **immediately** on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were **astonished** at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

ESV

23

READ SLIDE

- You did not need to have a building to have a synagogue, just 10 Jewish men of age.
- The synagogue services were led by laymen most of the time.
- Visiting rabbis were invited to comment on the Scripture reading of the day, explaining how Jesus, and later Paul, would have a forum to speak in the services.
- The alarming nature of all this is captured again in the first note of the alarm, IMMEDIATELY.
- And then Mark tells us the people were ASTONISHED.
- This is 1 of 7 words that Mark uses to describe amazement (Bock).

-- The idea of the word is “to strike with panic or shock” (Hughes).

-- It is translated by one scholar as “thunderstruck” (Barclay).

TR: So it makes sense that we . . .



**The Alarming News about Jesus,
Who comes with . . .**

24

**A Radical Gospel
A Radical Call to Discipleship
A Radical Authority to Teach**

. . . (Blow air horn) . . . blow the horn to signify the alarming news that Jesus came with a radical authority to teach.

-- Jesus did not teach like the scribes, who one person described as being “in bondage to quotation marks” (Hughes p40).

-- The Scribes were the teachers of the law, professionally trained at the interpretation and application of the Law (Wessel).

-- When I teach, it is under the authority of the Word. When Jesus’ taught, it is as the authority, being the Word of God.

-- Cf. those who say they will only submit to the ²⁴ authority of Jesus . . . but that must include what He taught.

-- EX: "I submit to my boss. I just don't open any of her emails to me."

TR: Can we clean out our ears? Can we pull out the earbuds filled with the world's droning? Can we allow the Spirit to help us be radicalized again by Jesus? Pick it up in verse 23 . . .

Mark 1:23-24

And **immediately** there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”

ESV

25

READ SLIDE

- Whether this man was already in the service or just walked in . . . things becoming alarming.
- Alarming enough that today the ERT security team would have stepped up to intervene.
- The statement made by the evil spirit who oppressed the man may even be stronger than the question in the text. Rather, “You have come to destroy us!”
- Note the singular in “I know” but the plural of “us”
- Jesus has come not just to be victorious over the temptations of the devil, as we saw last week . . .

-- . . . but to destroy the forces of evil all together, in the fulness of God's time. The time is fulfilled. The Kingdom is at hand.

TR: How alarming . . . what would Jesus do? Did He know the right prayers? Did He know the name of this these demons so He could get control of them, even as they tried to get control of Him by revealing His true identity? (No one was sleeping through that synagogue service.)

Mark 1:25-26

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!”²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.

ESV

26

READ SLIDE

-- A simple command.

-- Literally, “Be muzzled!”

-- Spiritual warfare is real. The devil and his demons hate God and all who love God. They are the true enemy that we wrestle against.

TR: The alarm clock has gone off and the . . .



**The Alarming News about Jesus,
Who comes with . . .**

27

**A Radical Gospel
A Radical Call to Discipleship
A Radical Authority to Teach
A Radical Power over Evil**

(sound air horn) . . . horn has sounded. READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 27 . . .

Mark 1:27-28

And they were all **amazed**, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And **at once (immediately)** his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

ESV

28

READ SLIDE

- [amazed] = another of the synonyms Mark uses (cf. verse 22)
- = “sudden bewilderment and total shock” (BDAG in Bock)
- And again we see our word “immediately”, though here it is translated “at once” (v. 28)

- EX: Being awakened when I was an RA . . . hitting my head on the ceiling , , , or responding to Randy trying to wake me up from a nap.

-- Lloyd-Jones in Hughes p 55: “you may have felt²⁸ the need of help and advice and comfort, but until you awaken to the fact that your nature is itself evil . . . you will never have felt the need of a Saviour.”

TR: Cf. wanting to shake people awake, to shout, to stomp my feet . . . the alarming news of Jesus with . . .

.



**The Alarming News about Jesus,
Who comes with . . .**

29

**A Radical Gospel
A Radical Call to Discipleship
A Radical Authority to Teach
A Radical Power over Evil**

(Blow air horn before each point) . . . READ SLIDE

-- . . . is that we cannot and must not put our fingers in our ears.

-- The Gospel is a proclamation . . . that Jesus came calling out loudly . . . it is not the gentle alarm I have on my phone . . .

-- . . . it is more like the second one I have in the bathroom . . . that screams out at me and I jump out of bed. It demands a response!!!

- If the radical gospel has not shaken us to the core . . . we don't understand it.**
- If the radical call to discipleship has not resulted in all things being under Christ's lordship, then we have not heeded it yet.**
- If Jesus' radical authority to teach us "the way, the truth, and the life" has not astonished us and even frightened us with what He has taught us to do and say . . . to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us**
- . . . then we really have slept through His words.**
- If Jesus' authority over the demons and evil has not made us bold to storm the gates of hell as we fish for the souls of men and women, then we've hit the snooze button.**

If we think we've met Jesus, but nothing changed in our lives. Then we've only heard the elevator music of religion, not the alarm of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. How will you respond to His alarm?