

MARK - Boldly Calling Others to Faith, Follow, & Fish

Pastor Danielle shared her story about moving to Scotland, and changing the rules for how they lived so that they wouldn't die when crossing the road if they looked the wrong way.

When they moved from the United States to the United Kingdom, Pastor Danielle realized that in a new Kingdom, there are new rules.

| May God establish his kingdom in our lifetime — Jewish Prayer

The Time Has Come

The time has come for what?

Mark 1:14-20

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “***The time has come,***” he said. “***The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!***”

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. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The New International Version. (2011). (Mk 1:14–20). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



Who is Jesus? He is the messenger and the subject of the message; he is the King!

Jesus is the King who sets the way to live, the rules of his Kingdom.

Jesus is answering the prayers and declaring that he is the king of the earth, and the time has come at last, and our response is to repent and have *faith*.

Repent

Changing how we think and how we act. When we get new information, our thinking changes and then our behavior changes.

I.e. looking right before crossing the street instead of looking left.

Repentance is a work of the Spirit of God coming into our life and changing our hearts to align with that new information.

It is a mind change, a body change, and spiritual change, but we have to cooperate.

While we may think that repentance may be connected to morally sinful behavior, it is a gift because it is an opportunity for the Spirit to partner with you and change.

If someone challenges you to repent, you can say, "*I GET to do that,*" rather than, "*I HAVE to do that.*" We can stop living in a way that agrees with the accuser and turn to God, the author of life and restoration. Repentance is a Gift.

Believe

Like repentance, belief is more than just our thinking changing.

In English, belief is connoted with mental acceptance.

But in Greek, belief is loyalty, trust, and deep allegiance.



Jesus' call is to rethink your entire life and change your loyalty to a new king.

Often, the emphasis we hear on belief is that Jesus' grace is a free gift.

We can't earn it, so it is free for us, but it did cost Jesus his life, and our response is to change our lives and orient it around the new King and his new rules. The time has come to give your allegiance to a new King.

We aren't just miserable sinners who take a free gift and have nothing to offer. We are made in his image and restored and we can offer ourselves as [a living sacrifice] back to him and to others.

Follow & Fish

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. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Simon and Andrew had to leave their previous life and take up a new life in a new kingdom with new rules. James and John chose to do the same: respond with radical obedience.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Everything that they had done in their life before this moment prepared them to work with Jesus; he took their experience with fishing and translated it into his ministry.

Jesus does not individually book appointments with these guys. He calls them as a community — do it with. They will walk side by side with all of their baggage and garbage in their lives staring each other in the face.

The first part of Jesus' ministry was calling people to walk together. The bulk of what we know about Jesus and his ministry is from a record of what he did in community. It's as if the most important thing about Jesus' life were the 3 years in public community ministry. Almost nothing is given about the 30 years of his being private.



The "American churchianity" has made the emphasis on our private life and has skewed that aspect of following Jesus. Your best you is not by yourself, but in conflict with others, mining out your sin and revealing the true nature of God.

Jesus' message was intended to be lived out in community. It's harder, and embarrassing, and vulnerable, and challenging. But the Christian life was never meant to be easy.

Who Are You Following With?

- Who are you following Jesus with?
- Who are your people?
- Who is challenging you and calling out your pride, your sin, your insecurity, your laziness?
- Who is caring for you? Who are you caring for?

Jesus calls people to repentance and allegiant faith, following him together as King. And he calls them to fish together — it's a mission that they can't do individually.

This kind of following together and fishing together way of following Jesus confronts the American "King of the Hill" independence. But Jesus declares that there is only one king, and it's not American self-sufficiency. His goals for our life are not always our goals.

Follow me and I will make you fishers of people. It's one sentence, and it's not just follow. If we're not fishing, we're not following Jesus the way he has asked us to.

What kingdom rules do you live by? Who sets them? Who holds you accountable to them? How is that working out for you?



Repentance and allegiant faith is lived out in leaving your kingdom, following Jesus together and fishing with your brothers and sisters. It means saying no to self-sufficiency and independence and yes to community and interdependence.

If you don't know how to fish, don't let knowing be an obstacle. In this church, we have a deep philosophy of learning how to develop healthy relationships and preach the gospel. We're learning how to reach out to the community together, and we invite you to join us so that we can fish together.

What's At Stake If We Don't?

Pastor Perry is part of a North Seattle pastor's network with 23 churches in the north part of King County. And what can churches do to help? Mature followers of Jesus who can walk with people and help them follow Jesus. They need repentant, allegiant followers of Jesus who work together to fish for others.

| This church is you, the people.