

## Let's Go Fishing

Mark 1:1-20

Pray

when some of you heard this title, you got excited

- How many fishermen do we have here?

For others fishing reminds them of **bugs, bait, and boredom**. The three deadly bees.

- You want nothing to do with it.
  - Unfortunately, too often we bring this attitude into our spiritual lives.

We don't want to become fishers of men like verse 17 is going to talk about

- because of these deadly bees, Some don't want to be fishers of men
  - because **number one, people bug us.**

number two. **We don't know what bait to use.** Ministry like bait can be messy & stinky

- And number three, **people think living for Jesus is boring**

**But following Jesus is not boring at all, it's a thrill of a lifetime!**

- **It's the greatest purpose you can spend your life doing following Jesus!**
  - **But the enemy will lie to you and say its boring**

And before we get into the book, let's get a little background information first.

The book of Mark is one of the 4 gospel accounts of Jesus life  
we have four Gospels for very important reasons

- the four Gospels give us four different viewpoints of the same story very distinct but all blended in harmony together
- Matthew writes from his perspective
  - Mark Luke and John from their perspectives they tell the story
    - but from just a slightly different angle

**the Holy Spirit is like the producer of a film and he sets up four cameras**

- **all at different angles all to reveal how the crowd reacts**
  - **or what the main character says & does**
- **"Car accident in intersection" 4 witnesses at each corner**

Out of the four gospel writers that documented the life and ministry of Jesus,

- the gospel of Mark is the shortest in length with just 16 chapters.

**great things come in small packages**

- **all of us have this little gadget called an iPhone or smart phone**
  - **that was unimaginable just a few years ago**
- **this iPhone can check the weather anywhere in the world**
  - **I can listen to music I can search the internet, take pictures, deposit checks**
    - **I can listen to messages of sermons**

the Gospel of Mark is a small package that offers great things

- he covers a lot of ground of Jesus life & ministry in just a short period of time
  - Mark describes the life of Jesus at an extremely fast pace.

He uses the word **immediately**, around 41 times,

- And unlike the other gospels, Mark doesn't spend as much time on the sermons
  - that were preached by Jesus,
    - but more on the works that were done by Jesus.

Mark highlights for us the activity of Jesus, and he presents him as the suffering servant.

- A Busy servant Moving from place to place quickly Taking care of all kinds of people
  - Christ in Action

if you were to take one scripture out of the gospel of Mark to summarize all 16 chapters,

- it would probably be **Mark 10:45**. "For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

**Mark was given a second chance in his ministry after he had made a mistake....**

Maybe you came in here this morning and you think I messed up.

- I don't know if there's any ministry left for me. God's probably done with me.
  - Probably not. God has more for you to do.

Even if you had a setback or even if you failed or you stumbled along the way.

- God can still use your life if you're willing to learn from the lessons
  - that he's seeking to teach you.

Someone said, **when you fall down, pick something up while you're down there. It'll teach you something.**

## **1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

"Mark's gospel opens up not talking about the nativity or any genealogy.

- He just gets right to the point, right to the ministry of Jesus
  - and begins with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The word gospel means the good news.

- Mark gets right to the heart of the issue:

the beginning of the good news regarding Jesus

- and the good news is that Jesus who is God Almighty in the flesh
  - came out of Eternity into time, was born, died and resurrected from the dead
    - so that our sins could be forgiven
      - so that we could go to heaven

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in [a]the Prophets:

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

Who will prepare Your way before You."

<sup>3</sup> "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

Make His paths straight.' "

Here we see...

**2 prophecies** about the messenger who is going to make ready for the coming Messiah these are the only two Old Testament passages that Mark quotes from in the entire book

- Malichi 3 & Isaiah 40 And they have to do with John the Baptist and his ministry. they're pointing & prophesying about the ministry of John the Baptist
- whose ministry points to the person of Jesus.

The Bible is a remarkable book unlike any other as its filled with fulfilled prophecies.

- the reality of fulfilled prophecy is one of the things that sets the Bible apart.
  - No other book in the world can stand up to its claims.

There are no fulfilled prophecies in the Quran.

- There are no fulfilled prophecies in the Hindu book.
  - There's no fulfilled prophecy in the Book of Mormon
    - or any other sacred religious writing, not one.

Fulfilled prophecy is something that sets the Bible apart from any other book !

The authors of the Bible rightly foretold of future events, hundreds

- And sometimes thousands of years in advance.

this is the indestructible, 100% accurate, inspired word of God.

It says John the Baptist was sent out by God to be a voice.

- of one crying in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord,
  - making his path straight.

Did you know that we all have the same calling upon our lives too?

- God is sending us out to be a voice of one crying out in the wilderness of this world.
  - To the lives of our family members, our coworkers, our neighbors.

These prophecies use this illustration that he's going to prepare the way

- and make his path straight

**now this would have made sense with the people of Rome**

- **b/c anytime the king would travel he would send out his road crew before him**
  - **and the road crew would straighten out the roads**
    - they would shave down the high places fill in the Low Places
      - cut any trees so the king's Journey wasn't all up and down
        - and back and forth = it would be a straight shot
  - they would build a beautiful road to wherever the King was going to go
    - in fact in Israel when the pope came to visit some of the holy sites
      - they did the same thing they ended up Paving with asphalt
        - a lot of these country type roads to the different churches
  - and after they paved these roads the people of the community were very happy
    - so every year the people of Israel petitioned the government
      - please bring the pope back we want the pope to visit Israel again
        - but this time can you send him down south a little further
          - because you know they paved the roads

so it was John the Baptist who would be preparing the way for Jesus

- making the hearts of the people ready

- because their hearts were crooked, they weren't straight, they were rough
  - full of potholes and he was pointing them to Jesus!

the point for us is before we came to Jesus Christ we were pretty crooked pretty messed up

- a lot of potholes a lot of roughness = we were a mess
  - but praise be to God when we come to Faith in Jesus
    - he straightens us out, he fills in the dips, he cuts down the high places
      - HE is making us into a beautiful Road to bring others to Jesus

**we don't clean up our act and come to church**

- **we come to church so God can clean up our Act**

<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. <sup>5</sup> Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

John would persuade people to repent because the Messiah is coming

- and people would say I want to repent I'm going to confess my sin
  - and John would say great as a sign of your repentance
    - come into the river and I'm going to dunk you under the water

John was baptizing and preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah.

John didn't have this watered down, soft message that everybody loved,

- this guy was preaching fire, fire, calling people to repent of sin.

When King Herod showed up, John said, "Hey King, I know you took your brother's wife

- and you're living a life of adultery. You need to repent."
  - And then the religious leaders showed up,
    - John said, "Hey, you brewed of vipers. "You need to repent."

So John preached fire. But it also tells us what John was wearing & his favorite snack

<sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

- He loved eating grasshoppers dipped in honey

<sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

John had a huge Ministry and yet everything he said pointed people to Jesus not himself

- we need to point everybody to Jesus in everything we say

in **John 3:30** John said speaking of Jesus **he must increase and I must decrease**

- John was humble

he said' it's not about me

- what I really want to tell you about is the one who's coming after me
  - I'm just the Forerunner
    - you need to have your eyes on the one who's coming after me

<sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

After Jesus ascended to heaven He sent the Holy Spirit as our Helper!

There are 3 Greek prepositions that r used for the work & Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Para = paramedic, In & Epi

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Epi

**Acts 1:8** Jesus said but **you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to me**

<sup>9</sup> It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

the baptism of Jesus happened at the last three & a half years of his life

- which represents the beginning of his public Ministry

<sup>10</sup> And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

As Jesus comes out of the waters of baptism we see the Trinity in Action!

- Jesus coming out of the water
- Spirit of God descending on Him
- Voice of the Father "You are My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

I love how the Spirit comes upon Jesus at the beginning of His ministry

- Empowering Him for service

**App. We need the Spirit to empower us for ministry as well**

I love that the Holy Spirit is depicted as a dove. b/c A dove is very gentle, innocent, & pure.

- very gentle very sweet they land softly they're not obnoxious Birds

the holy spirit's a gentleman he's like a dove

- Notice how the Holy Spirit is not depicted as a hawk. Swooping down, picking on us
  - nor is the Holy Spirit depicted as a peacock, making a bunch of noise,
    - showing off and drawing attention to itself.

nor is the Holy Spirit depicted as an ostrich with his head in the sand,

- oblivious or ignoring our particular sin.

the Holy Spirit in a form of a dove is a sacrificial animal

- it was seen by the people & John the Baptist
  - As the final verification this is the Messiah this is the one
    - b/c in **Isaiah 11:1-2** there is a prediction about the coming Messiah

it says **a rod will come from the stem of Jesse and the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him**

why did the Holy Spirit Come Upon Jesus?

- I think for at least **three reasons** number one is to fulfill Old Testament prophecy

**Isaiah 61:1.** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,  
Because the Lord has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound

Two it was to confirm Jesus's deity

third reason and that's to point out the Trinity

so you have all three persons of the godhead God the Father God the son God the holy spirit

- in one place at one time

oftentimes we have those Mountaintop experiences

- and what happens when we drive down from the mountain
    - immediately we start experiencing the trials the testings the tribulations
- and that is often the case when God blesses us when there is a blessing
- oftentimes immediately that's when the trials and temptations come

And right after this amazing spiritual high, this, mountaintop-like experience,

- what happens?

**<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.**

it was the Holy Spirit who drove him into the Wilderness

- so apparently the Holy Spirit doesn't just lead us besides Still Water

**Psalm 23:2** He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.

I love that verse he leads me beside Still Waters

- however he also drives us into the Wilderness to dry dusty & desolate places
  - to be tested and tried and tempted

we like to blame everything on Satan

- the devil is throwing all this hardness in my life
    - Well maybe it's the Holy Spirit driving us into the wilderness
      - to allow that to happen to bless us
  - because when God's involved in that it's not meant to burn us out
    - but to build us up, it's not meant to grind us down but to grow us up
- and I think all of us can take great refuge in knowing as Believers
- that God's holy spirit is working in our life no matter what season we are in

<sup>13</sup> And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

since Jesus was going to die for the sins of the world,

- he was going to experience what we go through.

So Jesus went through 40 days of being tempted by Satan

- with the three temptations that all of us are tempted by
  - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

And this is why **Ephesians 4:15** says that **we do not have a high priest that cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but in all points, tempted as we are yet without sin.**

the number 40 in scripture is the number of testing or Temptation or judgment

- it rained 40 days and 40 nights
- the children of Israel wandered 40 years in the wilderness
- Jesus was tempted 40 days which obviously involves 40 nights

**1 Corinthians 10:13** **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to <sup>1a</sup>bear it.**

- everybody's going through it but God is faithful to help us
  - isn't that a beautiful promise from the Lord

what a wonderful scripture you know when we say God I'm at the end of my rope

- God my Plate's full I can't take any more God this temptation is too much
- in effect we're calling God a liar
  - God said I'm not going to give you more than you can handle
    - God this is more than I can handle
      - I don't think so...

we can rest in the fact that he'll make the way to escape

- How? through the power and the presence and the person of God's holy spirit
  - Coming upon us to empower us to enable us

When Jesus was Tempted by Satan

- Jesus gives Satan a "Bible Study" "It is written"

What are we to do when we are tempted?

- Pray
- Quote scripture
- Rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus
- Run like Joseph

**2 Timothy 2:22** **Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

" There's always an exit. There's always a way out of the temptation.

- It's just a matter of whether or not I'm going to take the exit when temptation comes

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Jesus was a preacher! His focus was preaching the gospel

- The kingdom of God is at hand
  - What does **at hand** mean? It is near – as close as your hand! On deck!

The Bible says **today, if you can hear the voice of the Lord, calling you, don't resist it, respond, repent of sin, turn to God while you have the opportunity.**

Jesus calls us to both Repent & Believe

- Repent: means to change direction = It's an action word!
  - Turning from your sin

Believe: means to Trust in, Cling to, and Rely on Jesus!

- To have A relationship of trust and dependence on Jesus

John the Baptist was put in prison in verse 14 because he rebuked Herod

- for taking his brother Phillip's wife as his wife.
  - and they ended up cutting off his head and we'll read more about that
    - when we get to Mark chapter 6

**John stood up for what was right**

- and in the world we live in today we need to stand up for Jesus Christ
  - And the word of God

the place of Jesus preaching is incredibly significant as it pertains to biblical prophecy

- b/c 750 years before Jesus came onto the scene a Prophet by the name of Isaiah
  - was prophesying in **Isaiah 9:1-2** and talked about Galilee
    - and how in this region a great light would bring forth light
      - to those who lived in darkness

Isaiah was prophesying about the coming of the Messiah

- who would shine this great light to shine in the area of Darkness in Galilee

no wonder Jesus said in **John 8:12** **I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."**

- so Jesus Christ fulfilled Isaiah 9:1-2 by being that light in Galilee

in **Matthew 5:14** Jesus said **you are the light of the world**

- so the question for all of us is are we shining bright for Jesus?

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:16** **that we should let our light so shine among men they'll see our good works and glorify Our Father in heaven**

the word repent is used 34 times in the New Testament

- it means to have a change of mind, a change of direction = a U-turn

repentance was the first message of John the Baptist when he came onto the scene



- it was the first message of Jesus when he came after his baptism
- it was the first message of the early Church in Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the <sup>[a]</sup>remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

it says Believe In The Gospel

- so eternal life is simply based on faith on believing the good news which by the way separates every single religion on the face of the planet today
- from Biblical Christianity because religion is man reaching up to touch God
  - through good works through good deeds

a lot of groups today say yes you must believe in Jesus Christ to be saved

- and you need to knock on so many doors and you have to hand out so many tracks
  - and you have to wear special underwear
    - and you have to do all these silly things
- but that's religion = biblical Christianity is simply saying believe
  - it's about a relationship with God it's by faith we're saved

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

u remember Paul and silas's second missionary journey they traveled to Philippi in Acts 16

- and when they were in Philippi Paul and Silas were arrested & thrown into prison
  - which wasn't abnormal for Paul
    - everywhere Paul went he probably asked how are the jails here
      - he knew he was going to end up in prison

and it was midnight and they were chained praying and singing hymns to God

- they were worshipping God in the middle of prison

And a great earthquake opened the prison doors and the Jailer was petrified

- Maybe that's where that song came from "I will survive"
  - At first I was afraid, I was petrified!

in Rome if you were a Jailer and your prisoner escaped you would exact his penalty

- so he no doubt was going to be put to death so the Jailer starts to grab his sword and Paul said do not harm yourself for we are all here

- and then he asked Paul a question he said **what must I do to be saved?**
  - he missed the mark what must I do? what good action must I perform?

and Paul **straightened him out** in verse 31 he said **believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved** = it's all about belief = it's all about putting our faith in Jesus

- not good works or good deeds

As the ministry of Jesus began, Jesus then selected several men to accompany him

- as disciples in verse 16

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

- Jesus is commanding them to follow him
  - And then Jesus said next I will make you become Fishers of Men

- I will Empower you I will enable you I will embolden you
  - to be able to obey the command I've given you

and this just blesses me because whenever God gives us a command

- he will also enable us to obey it

and this is a great blessing because you know sometimes God's Commandments

- they're hard they're tough they're difficult
  - it's impossible when we try to do it in our own strength in our own effort
    - but Jesus said I will make you become Fishers of Men
    - He will Empower us!

Your job is to stay close to me, to abide in me, to follow me, and I'll take care of the rest.

no wonder Paul tells us in **Philippians 4:13** **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me**

In **Ephesians 6:10** Paul said **be strong in the Lord and the power of His might**

And I love how it says immediately they were obedient to Jesus

- they forsook it all to follow Jesus

these guys were living by faith

**2 Corinthians 5:7** **we're to walk by faith not by sight**

- ultimately serving the lord is about walking by faith

and these guys believed that Jesus would give them whatever they needed

- as it pertained to life

**Philippians 4:19** **my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.** will God give us everything we need? yes!

- will he give us everything we want? probably not

Jesus called them to be Fishers of Men

- he called them to do what he did
  - Jesus himself was the greatest fisherman of men
    - that's what Ministry is about seeing what Jesus does and then doing it

Jesus wants to make us Fishers of men he wants you to catch other people for the kingdom

- well how do I do it? Jesus said just follow me
  - it's not like you have to go out and enroll in a fisher of men class
    - you just come after Jesus follow after him
      - and he will make you become this
- [if you're not being a fisher of men then your prob not following Jesus as you should](#)

Jesus gives us the key to becoming fishers of men and that is following him.

- He will give us his heart. I believe many today lack the heart of Jesus.

**Matthew 9:36**, it says, " When Jesus saw the multitude, he had compassion for them, for he saw them as weary like sheep without a shepherd.

as we spend time with Jesus in prayer and his word, he will give us his heart,

- which is the heart for the lost.

Jesus said, in **Luke 19:10** " I came to seek & to save the lost.

Simon Peter will be the guy who will stand up on Pentecost and give the gospel

- and see 3,000 souls saved

**19** When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets.

John will be the disciple that gets a vision of the end of times the book of Revelation

these men were not necessarily the best and the brightest.

- They weren't the cream of the crop, the top of the class.
  - They were average, they were ordinary, they were rugged fishermen.
- This gives me such great comfort because the Lord delights in using ordinary people
  - to do extraordinary things for his kingdom.

**1 Corinthians 1:27** God delights in choosing the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, the base things of the world, the weak things of the world, to put to shame the things which are mighty so that no flesh can glory in his presence.

That way when God does a work through us, everyone else knows that it was the Lord.

**20** And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

In that moment, when they heard the call of Jesus, they responded by faith.

- They had no idea what they would encounter.

Like Abraham went out not knowing where he was going,

Jesus in calling these men to be his disciples wasn't calling them to a one-time decision.

- He was calling them to a way of life.

Maybe there is things in your life that need to be dropped.

- things keeping you from going forward.

I think of the apostle Paul, sharing his testimony he said, "I count them as rubbish, garbage really, that I might gain Christ and might be found in him,."

The Bible says **Hebrews 12:1**, lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us so that we can run the race with endurance that is set before us looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith.

these guys forsook everything and everyone to follow Jesus

- they put Jesus first

I love that old hymn I have decided to follow Jesus no turning back no turning back

**Share Gospel & Pray**