

Guided Bible Study

The Call to Discipleship

Mark 1:14–18

- 14 Now after that John was put in prison,
Jesus came into Galilee,
preaching the *gospel*
of the *kingdom of God*,
- 15 And saying,
"The time is fulfilled, and
the kingdom of God is at hand:
repent ye, and
believe the gospel."
- 16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and Andrew his brother
casting a net into the sea:
for they were fishers.
- 17 And Jesus said unto them,
"*Come ye after me, and*
I will make you to become
fishers of men."
- 18 And straightway
they forsook their nets, and
followed him. (KJV)

Key Words _____

"Gospel" *euaggelion* = good tidings

"kingdom of God" *basileia* = royal power, kingship,
dominion, rule of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah

"Repent" *metanoeo* = to change one's mind

"Believe" *pisteuo* = to think to be true

"Come after me" = come behind, follow

"Forsook" *aphiemi* = to go away leaving something
behind

Guided Study

(Download and complete Discipleship Studybook Three to acquaint yourself with Bible Study Methods and Principles for Bible Interpretation.)

verse 14

1. How does Jesus' proclamation compare with John's? (see Matthew 3:1-2)
2. Why do you think Jesus waited until John was imprisoned before He began preaching in Galilee?
3. **Circle** the word that describes what Jesus preached. What does this word mean and why is Jesus' message called this (see verse 15)?

verse 15

1. What does "*Kingdom of God*" mean?
2. **Circle** the two things Jesus is calling people to do. Why are they important?
3. How would you paraphrase this verse?

verse 16

1. **Read** Jesus' first meeting with Andrew and Simon in *John 1:29-42*. What do you learn about these men from these two passages?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose them as disciples?
3. Why would Jesus choose you as His disciple?

verse 17

1. **Underline** Jesus' invitation to Simon and Andrew?
2. What does it mean to "*come after (Jesus)*"? Why is this significant?
3. **Underline** what Jesus will make us if we choose to follow Him.
4. How does following Christ make you to become "*fishers of men*"?

verse 18

1. **Circle** two words that describe how Simon and Andrew responded.
2. Why do you think they responded in this way?
3. If Jesus called you to follow Him today, how would you respond?

Principles & Truths

This passage of Scripture teaches that ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Applications:

In light of the Principles & Truths learned, I will ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Jesus' Call

Mark 1:14-17

(Complete the Guided Study before reading this study to gain your own personal insights into this passage.)

In the person of Christ, God became flesh and lived among us ... sharing in our experiences and our pains. But it was not only for these that He came. He had a mission to fulfill, a call to answer. When Jesus came from Heaven's throne to Earth's soil, He effected a bridge over which He would call any to enter the Heavenly home. God sent His Son to bring to Himself all who would hear and heed that call! In Mark 1:14-17, we glimpse the initial steps of Jesus' ministry to reach the World with His liberating and life giving message.

1. Jesus Called by God

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

After John the Baptist was imprisoned, Jesus emerged to fulfill God's call for His life ... to proclaim the "good news" that God's Kingdom was at hand. Jesus knew why He was here. Unlike many of us, there was no stumbling nor hesitation when it came to doing the Will of His Father. How about you? What has God called you to do? If there is uncertainty in this area of your spiritual life, get together with your Pastor, or with a mature Christian who can pray with you and perhaps help you discover your unique place in God's ministry here on earth.

As for Jesus, His message was one that Israel had been anticipating for a millenium. That God Himself would intervene in the affairs of men and bring in everlasting peace with His Kingdom Rule. Jesus, God's Anointed King, had finally set foot on our planet to establish His Rule and call people to enter His eternal Kingdom!

Jesus announced the requirements for entry into His Kingdom. "Repent and believe the good news!" We must change our thinking regarding sin and our attitude toward God and His Truth. And then we must be persuaded that God Forgives Sin and provides Salvation through faith in His Son! That's Good News!

2. Jesus Calls Others

"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 make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed Him."

From the very beginning Jesus committed Himself to a core of followers who would learn from Him. But notice who He chooses. Here, it is a pair of "fishermen"! Now if you were about to begin a ministry that would extend to the farthest reaches of the globe, would you have chosen fishermen as your first recruits? Would you have chosen 'uneducated' blue collar types? Jesus did!

Today, you would have difficulty entering full-time ministry without some kind of college degree ... preferably in Biblical Studies or Theology! But what impressed Jesus more than the depth of their knowledge of God, was the depth of their passion for Him. Why? Because discipleship requires a commitment of both the mind and the heart! Jesus is looking for followers with a passion for God who desire more than anything to know Him and be used by Him!

Jesus is looking for people like Simon and Andrew who will not hesitate to drop what they are doing in this world to become involved in what Christ is doing for the next! Jesus is looking for people just like you and me! The question is, do we possess a passion for Christ that will compel us to follow Him at the drop of a hat no matter what?

3. Jesus Calls Others to Call Others Still!

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

A great danger in the Christian church is that we have become a community comprised mostly of spectators. Worship services have often evolved into shows to draw in the masses to fill the pews to be entertained. This was not Jesus' pattern of ministry.

From the very beginning the challenge was clear. "Come, follow Me, ... and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus' agenda was not hidden. He was calling us to Himself, that we might come to know Him and make Him known to others! And praise God His followers accepted the challenge!

Within the next several decades, the first Christians committed themselves, even at the cost of their lives, to making disciples of all nations. Even without the use of modern transportation, multimedia technology or communications, they extended the reach of the Gospel into the very palace of Caesar and turned the empire upside down!

Today, having far greater manpower and resources, and having superior technology and knowledge, there are still billions who have not even heard the Gospel. Why? Because we have strayed from Jesus' agenda. We have sought to become followers but not fishermen. We enjoy praising God, singing the songs and listening to the great teachers of His Word, but our hearts are far from those who live in spiritual darkness, without any hope, and heading toward an eternity in torment.

If we were fishers of men, we would be casting out nets, hooks, and anything to gather in the lost! Our agenda would be to send as many as possible to the uttermost and to support them as much as possible with our prayers and finances. Instead, we too often treat our missionaries like itinerant beggars who extend their hands for support from churches who have other priorities. But the missionaries are the primary reason the Church exists on Earth! They are Jesus' priority for His Church!

And more, we who call ourselves followers of Christ have all been drafted into His service to do everything and anything we can to fill His Kingdom with disciples from all nations. Do not look for a special calling or anointing. You received both the moment you decided to follow Christ (Acts 1:8). Simply reach forward as you follow Him while reach back to bring others with you!

Think!

- 1. Why is it necessary to 'repent' when we believe the Gospel?*
- 2. Why is the arrival of the Kingdom of God 'good news'?*
- 3. Why did Jesus call Simon and Andrew to follow Him? What qualities did they possess that qualified them in Jesus' eyes?*
- 4. Why is it important for Christ's followers to also be fishers of men?*

Application

- 1. Jesus was called to Bridge the gap between God and Sinful Man, and to a ministry of inviting people everywhere to come to God through Faith in Him. As a follower of Christ, what part in His ministry has He appointed you to do? How will you apply your calling in the ministry of His Church?**
- 2. Jesus called others to become part of His ministry. How will you encourage others to move from being a spectator to being a participant? Who can you encourage right now?**
- 3. Jesus called others to call others still! You and I are called by Christ to call still others to Him. What and how are you fulfilling this calling? How are you supporting others who have gone to other nations to fulfill this calling?**

Affirmations!

- 1. Just as Christ was Called by God, Even So He Has Called Me!.**
- 2. I Will Follow Christ Wherever He Leads and Do Whatever He Commands.**
- 3. Having Been Called By God, I Will Call Others to Him.**
- 4. I Will Disciple Others That They May Disciple Others Still!**