

- Today
 - Usually the simple stuff is the MOST important
 - What it means to “follow Jesus”
 - The teaching style of Jesus and His first encounter with a demon.
 - Pt 6 in the Mark series.
 - Covering theology, apologetics, historical insights, and simple vs by vs contextual teaching.
 - Not forgetting that application is essential

Start with 1:16-20 First read-through – notice what it says.

¹⁶As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.

¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

¹⁹Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

²⁰Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

- Big Picture
 - The first disciples Jesus calls.
 - He didn’t have disciples before the baptism.
 - Simon/Peter, Andrew
 - James and John
 - They respond right away.
 - They leave their family businesses to follow Jesus
 - Jesus will make them into fishers of men!
 - In several ways, imbedded in the text, they are a model/example for us to follow.
- But, this moment is REALLY radical for a couple reasons that we might not notice if we don’t think about it.
 - Or if we don’t know some of the cultural context behind it.

- What does it mean “follow Me”?
 - Seems to mean “become the disciple of a rabbi”
 - Rabbis didn’t usually appeal to people to follow them. It was the student who appealed and applied.
 - IVP - Disciples usually sought out their own teachers. Because discipleship often involved temporarily laying aside one’s livelihood and being apart from one’s wife and children, the decision to choose a teacher would have normally been made only after much deliberation, especially when the teacher traveled from place to place instead of staying in one town to teach.¹
 - Jesus initiates!
 - Jesus seeks us.
 - And He is calling ALL
 - Did they know Jesus? Or follow a total stranger?
 - They know of his baptism by John
 - Jn 1 – not official yet, but
 - Acts 1:21–22 (ESV) ²¹So one of the men who have **accompanied us** during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²**beginning from the baptism of John** until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”
 - But this is official and full time
 - Though not the 12 yet.
 - Rabbis would put them through some tests or require qualifications
 - The only qual is “come now, with no greater priorities”
 - ***Luke 9:57–62 (NASB95) ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ⁵⁹And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰But He said to***

¹ Keener, C. S. (1993). [The IVP Bible background commentary: New Testament](#) (Mk 1:16–20). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”

⁶¹Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” ⁶²But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- Jesus doesn’t need your qualifications. He demands your commitment!
 - Following Jesus requires **commitment** to Jesus not just acknowledging Him.
 - ***Luke 9:23 (ESV) ²³And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.***
 - Jesus over me
 - We need to take this seriously.
- The training comes with following Jesus.
 - They left?
 - Peter and Andrew left nets
 - James and John left their father and the hired servants
 - Prosperous business.
 - Mk 10:28 “we have left all and followed you”
 - But, it may not have hit you yet. How amazing this is.
 - Imagine... God with us says “follow me”
 - No qualifications, just commitment.
 - Not only will I tell you what’s right and wrong with your life.
 - I want you to follow me
 - To know me. To learn from me.

- Well, that’s the reality of YOUR calling.
- This can help us in many situations
 - Liberty vs legalism
 - Splitting hairs
 - Are you following Jesus in that?
 - I think this makes us **stricter**, without becoming pharisaical.

- New occupation = “fishers of men”
 - Preaching the gospel is like fishing.
 - Fishing – you cast out the net and see what you can catch. Then, do it again. And again
 - Gospel - same
 - A redirection of focus
 - From fish to souls
 - From this world to God’s kingdom
 - Do all leave jobs?
 - No – Lydia was a seller of purple used it for God.
 - But all change focus.
 - Different parts and callings in the body of Christ
 - Still at job but at it for Christ
 - ***Colossians 3:17 (NASB95) ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.***
 - The order
 - Follow me – I will make you fishers of men
 - Task – follow
 - Consequence – fishers.
 - No “I love Jesus, I hate people”
 - We do good to remember this
 - Because we get focused on the ministry more than the Lord. The tasks more than the master.

- Side note:

- The four men
 - Simon/Peter, Andrew (his brother), James and John.
 - All 4 are part of the 12 later on.
 - 3 are “the three”
 - Mount of Transfiguration
 - Jesus praying in Gethsemane
 - May be brought in early on as key witnesses
 - By Jesus and by Mark.

Mark 1:21–28 (NASB95)

²¹They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach.

- Capernaum
 - Hometown of Peter and Andrew as well as James and John
 - Archaeologists think they have found the site of this Capernaum synagogue.
- Synagogue
 - A building for Jewish Sabbath gatherings
 - During the week it also served as a schoolhouse and a courtroom for handling minor cases
 - But Jesus comes on the Sabbath
 - They allowed guest teachers
- Jesus began to teach
 - How exciting.
 - God with us, teaching us.
 - Let it sink in.

²²They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- These two verses are all we get about Jesus’ teaching.
- They are amazed... why?
 - Because of how He did and didn’t teach.
 - DID As one having authority
 - A theme in Mark.
 - What did it mean?
 - The force of His voice?

- Not as the scribes
 - Historical context may really help
 - Oral law –
 - They would fall back to “so and so said”
 - Talmud does this
 - Hard to say “the Talmud says”
 - They cited other teachers to defer to their authority.
 - Jesus just teaches.
 - Annoying – don’t lapse into this.
- What did he teach?
 - Similar material as we see elsewhere.
 - After teaching the Sermon on the Mount
 - They say this of him again.
 - Mt 7:27-28
 - “You’ve heard it said... I say to you”
 - Regularly tossing out added traditions.
 - But never minimizing what God said.
 - A good pattern for us to follow.
 - He taught He was the one who would fulfill the Law and Prophets.
 - Chances are Jesus taught the same content over and over
 - Travelling teacher.
 - Skeptic: How could they have remembered Jesus’ words?
 - Repetition
 - Sent out in Mat 10
 - Twos
 - Heard it more
 - It would have been embedded in the disciple’s memory
 - The HS

²³Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

²⁴saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

²⁶Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.

- Unclean spirit = demon (vs 34)
- “What business do we have with each other”
 - We are incompatible.
- What he admits
 - “I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”
 - Aaron is the only other one called this.
 - Ps 106:16
 - Typology?
 - But, Aaron was this to Israel as the high priest.
 - Jesus is called “the Holy One of God!” by a demon.
 - He ranks above all in that spiritual realm
 - They are scared. Not just in awe.
 - Like James said “the demons believe and tremble”
 - What was it like for a demon to see Jesus?
 - I don’t want to get weird... but.
 - They are in their kingdom... far from God’s presence.
 - Then Jesus comes
 - In their dominion
 - and starts casting them out!
 - Message – He is not only dealing with sin, he’s dealing with Satan and the dark forces of the world.
 - “to destroy us?”
 - Yet there’s only one. “I know who you are”
 - So, he thinks Jesus is likely to destroy them ALL.
 - Mt 8:29 “have you come to torment us before the time”

- They know their future.
 - But they don’t get the plan for salvation.
 - Mystery not even angels knew

- Cast out with a word
 - Historical record shows gimmicks
 - A bad smelling root.
- Jesus casts out the demons but us... he sets us free!
- And the POINT?

²⁷They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

²⁸Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

- This affirms Jesus’ authority, and identity.
 - The works of Christ are about Christ.
 - God does something in your life, something wonderful.
 - It should cause you to see Him differently.
 - I can trust you. You are good. Etc.
 - Don’t miss the lesson of His blessings.
- New teaching.
- Their response
 - Amazed – good. But.
 - “they debated among themselves”
 - Sadly, it ends there for many people.
 - Jn 6
 - Capernaum – many walk away
 - “hard teaching”
 - In Luke 10:15 Jesus includes Capernaum in a group of cities who rejected Him.
 - You need to follow
 - To commit.
 - He’ll take you as you are (no quals)
 - But you must respond.

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