

Mark 1:14-20 “Fishers of Men”

Before we begin our study today/I want you to think about the picture that comes to your mind when I say the following words

A) **Librarian**; How about **Astronaut**; football Player; police- officer; Evangelist?

B) **Wonder** How many pictured Billy Graham or Greg Laurie?

1) Maybe you pictured a bible thumping; finger pointing; sweat dripping; preacher! **JESUS**

C) But how many *pictured Yourself*?

Christianity Today/ largest Christian Publication polled its readers: Why believers are so reluctant to share their faith.

A.) 87% agreed every Christian is responsible for evangelism/ But Only 52% said they were active in sharing! They wanted to find out - why?

B) The results of the poll were interesting **43% said they were too timid,**

40% feared how people would respond

1.) 49% said they were not able to do evangelism as well as the "professionals" (pastors, missionaries, evangelists, etc)

C) *Maybe you identify with some of these feelings*

Today we are going to see the beginning of Jesus ministry!

A) Consider His Message, His Men, His Mission

B) See how all of that relates to our lives today – Living in NC SD in the year 2013 –

1) It is 2013. Look and say –

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, {Mark skips the whole arrest of John- idea is simply John fulfilled his role –prepare the way for Jesus – Jesus is here – John is arrested – over.} **Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel** {=Good news} **of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

“Palestine had three major provinces.

A) **Galilee was the northernmost province.**

B) **It contained beautiful lakes, forests, and mountains. Most of Jesus’ ministry was conducted in this province.**

It was there in Galilee that Jesus began his public ministry –

And I want you to note how He begins – Preaching.

A) I point that out because there are those today who want to **de-emphasize** the importance of preaching in the church.

B) But Jesus didn't – He made it a focus – What was good for Jesus is good for me!

His Message "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

A) It is time; the Kingdom of God is at Hand – Repent and believe

Message: The Kingdom of God is at hand!

A) What does that mean?

B) The Phrases Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven – don't show up in the Bible until Matthew Gospel – strictly NT terminology

C) Here is the idea – Jesus is a King – (King of kings Lord of lords - One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess)

But at that moment – the Kingdom of Jesus – the Kingdom of God was infiltrating Planet earth – being introduced to Humanity.

A) And what they are going to discover is this His kingdom is so different from anything they have ever seen or experienced before!

B) Jesus pointed to no palaces. He carried no flag. He sat on no throne.

1) He never marched in front of an army – but Jesus was beginning to build a spiritual kingdom.

C) This is why Jesus said in Luke 17:20 "The kingdom of God does not come with observation (with outward, visible trappings); nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

D) If you were a Jew steeped in Old Testament theology you would consider this a most revolutionary thought.

The Jews at the time of Jesus longed for the final coming of God's Kingdom, but had no idea of its initial invasion.

A) It's spiritual. Before Jesus rules over *institutions*, He rules over *individuals*.

B) Before He occupies *halls of power*, He occupies the *hearts of people*.

1) Before the King sits on an earthly throne He occupies the throne in human hearts. Before He destroys, He seeks to save.

C) So too Today, God's kingdom comes when people come under the sway of King Jesus,

1) Bow to His will, and allow His grace to transform their world.

D) Jesus said when you Pray: Your kingdom come – your will be done!

To pray **“Your kingdom come”** is not only to look forward to a day yet future,

A) But it's to ask Jesus to reign right now over *our marriages, our families, our work, our emotions, our play, our thoughts, our money...*

B)) It's to pray, **“Lord, permeate all of my life with your love and truth!”**

B) Author Max Lucado puts it, “When you say, “Thy kingdom come”... you are inviting the Messiah Himself to walk into your world... Take your throne in our land. Be present in my heart. Be present in my office. Come into my marriage. Be Lord of my family, fears, and doubts. This is no feeble request; it's a bold appeal for God to occupy every corner of your life.”

So Jesus is announcing the Beginning of His Kingdom –

A) His Kingdom does not begin in the form of a war, but a word - a message – an invitation.

B) The Jews thought the reign of God would fall like a *hammer, and pound out God's will,*

1) But Jesus says here it starts with a Word - Mark 4 God's kingdom comes as a *seed that's planted in the heart.*

C) So When Jesus says repent and believe it is not in the form of a command – but an INVITATION.

1) WHICH MEANS *the kingdom of God can be resisted*

D) Jesus wants everyone to be a part of His Kingdom – but He doesn't force anyone to be a part of it.

1) IT IS YOUR CHOICE!!!!!!!!!!!!

E) Jesus says the kingdom OF GOD requires our cooperation.

1) He requires willingness

So that was Jesus' message – Preaching the good news of the Kingdom – It is at hand – beginning to be revealed on planet earth.

A) Continues to this day -

B) Jesus invites men and women to be a part of His Kingdom – Consider next

#2 His Men V. 16-20

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

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

Interesting to me that Of the twelve men Jesus called, at least seven were fishermen.

A) To be a fisherman, one must possess patience and perseverance—qualities as valuable in fishing for men as in fishing for fish.

B) Subtle insight here in the text that is easy to miss:

1) I find it interesting that Peter and Andrew were **casting their nets** into the sea when Jesus called them.

D) On the other hand, James and John were **mending nets**.

So what you say: Well casting the nets is a beautiful picture of evangelism

A) Throwing out the net – throwing out the bait – see who Bites

B) The ministry of Peter and Andrew was evangelism, as evidenced by **Andrew repeatedly bringing people to Christ**,

1) And Peter preaching the sermon on the Day of Pentecost that “caught” three thousand people in the net of the gospel.

C) **Mending the nets is a great picture of body ministry** – Coming alongside to repair – broken people, marriages, situations.

D) John and James were both good at Mending or encouraging the body through their emphasis on both the heartfelt and practical nature of love.

1) In fact their method of evangelism – call down fire.

E) **Mellowed out** – and became very effective in teaching and training God’s people!

I simply point that out because there is diversity in the body of Christ!

A) We all have our different functions and giftings – all called to share our faith and be ambassadors for Christ

B) But the Lord will use each of you according to your own temperament, personality, and gifting.

C) For Example – **I know that my primary gift is MENDING** – brain operates – see scripture in light of the church – primarily – **Building body - training**

D) But I love evangelism – Plane – park – Gym - Easter

1) Coffee shop in Oregon – Something happens to you when you preach there.

God wants to take you and the way that He has wired you and use it for His glory!

A) Some of you have a heart for the lost – great with – talk to people easily - Dad on the golf course.

B) Others of you – heart for the church – the body – discipleship.

C) The thing I find interesting about the guys that Jesus chose is that they **are all so ordinary**.

1) Not the elite {didn't go to the universities – not the Palace

D) Not that there is anything wrong with education – or Politics

But in Starting his ministry Jesus wanted it to be so apparent that what was done was done by God – He choose to use the least expected.

A) OFTEN STILL DOES THAT TODAY!

B) Note: This is not the first time that these men have met Jesus!

1) John and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist – baptism – they met Jesus and spent a day with him {before going to desert

B) Familiar – **but still this is pretty radical** – who is this man who comes to these men who are gainfully employed and says – follow me –

1) Leave your boats and follow me!

C) Radical call – Are you a King or something? Yes I want to be a king in your hearts – Simon/ John

Jesus is asking them to let following **him take precedence over their livelihood** and their family relationships.

A) What a contrast to what we so often hear today in modern preaching.

B) Come to Jesus and he will help you with your livelihood and your family relationships

C) Come to Jesus if you want your business to improve and your family to be successful.

D) But here we see Jesus calling these men to follow him and **it means that it is going to make a severe dent in their livelihood**

1) And it might add **stress to their family relationships**

**Heavy thing: Here is the interesting thing
V. 18,20 IMMEDIATELY
KJV = Straightway: without hesitation**

A) Best way to follow the Lord – Don't hesitate

B) Hesitation gives opportunity to talk yourself out of doing whatever God is calling you to do

1) Rationalize why it won't work

C) **Hesitation gives opportunity for the Devil to discourage:**

1) Listen when God speaks – Respond Immediately

V.18 They immediately left their nets – V.20 They immediately left Dad – hired servants – other boats.

A) James and John were the sons of Zebedee – own fleet – successful

B) Which maybe explains the competitiveness that always seemed to exist between Peter and John. –

C) Be that as it may – they all left their boats and nets to follow Jesus.

This is a Pattern that we see often in scripture:

A) Following Jesus often means leaving something

B) The conversion of Matthew we read in Luke 5:27
27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." 28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

C) Notice that order - He left all - then He rose up and followed Him!

1) I believe that order is significant & worth noting because we need to understand that there needs to be a leaving before there can be a rising.

I THINK ABOUT BLIND MAN BART. MARK 10 - WHO WHEN JESUS CALLED LEFT HIS COAT

A) Beggars coat w/ deep pockets holding his money - it was a symbol of who he was what his life was about

B) But when Jesus called, he took off his coat and left it behind and rose up and went to Him. Why did he do that?

1) He knew that if Jesus healed him he was not going to need that coat anymore

C) New life - no longer needing to look back to the old - no longer would he need to beg anymore.

1) **Anyone here** – who has been set free still wearing beggars coat?

WIDOW OF NAIN - JESUS TOUCHED HER SON - THEY ROSE UP & LEFT BEHIND THAT CASKET – Why?

A) Her son was not dead anymore – no need for a casket –

B) How weird if it just sat in her living room – Why the casket – my son was dead – but he is not anymore - right

C) Why do we hold on to things that are a part of our lives when we were dead?

I THINK OF WHAT PAUL SAID IN PHIL 3

A) 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

B) Paul was referring to his old life as a pharisee / as a religious man who did not have a relationship w/ God

1) Paul was a man who had accomplished so much in the flesh

C) But Paul says *forgetting what lies behind*

1) I have to leave that mindset – that confidence in order to be who Jesus wants me to be in Him.

D) **Paul illustrating there that before a person can go forward in the Lord - before he can go upward in Jesus**

1) There has to be a letting go of the past - Before there can be a looking ahead to the future!

Now I have watched many people who have been limited in ministry - or held back & weighed down in their Christianity - no Joy

A) Because they were not willing to leave something behind

B) For some it was a secret sin - a “ *little compromise* “ **Gray areas**” For others it was an attitude of bitterness & unforgiveness

1) Some a fear / others a lack of trust or some misconception they have about the Lord that is causing them to not truly rise up & follow

2) A person or a relationship

C) Listen *THE FREESEST PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE LEARNED TO LEAVE THINGS BEHIND*

D) **Can't experience all that the Lord has for us until we are willing to do that**

1) We try hold on to things – that are going to perish anyway.

E) **Jim Elliot *"He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."***

F) **The People who soar the highest in the kingdom presently & those who will be the greatest in the kingdom in eternity**

1) Are those who have learned to leave stuff behind!

Jesus calls and these guys immediately respond – Today some of you

#3 His Mission:

He called out to those brothers follow me & I will make you to become fishers of men!

A) Interesting phrase *I will make you to become!* it speaks of transformation.

B) **Jesus was saying to these guys that in following Him they would develop a new mindset! His mindset**

C) There are two verses that really sum up the ministry of Jesus

Luke 19:10 **“The son of man has come to seek and save the Lost.”**

D) Mark 10:45 **“Son of man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”**

Jesus is saying: I want you to see life differently – Life is about who is saved and who is lost!

A) I want you to see people differently – Not about what I can get – but what I can give.

B) You see prior to this call these guys lived to fish / occupation their whole life was about fishing!

C) Each day brought about a new challenge of where was the best place to fish / how could they catch more fish / what was best way to fish

D) But Jesus was challenging them to see that there was something better than fishing for fish! **It was fishing for men!**

1) So He said *follow me & I will make you to become fishers of men!*

E) In other words *follow me & the natural result will be that you will see people the way I do! /*

1) *Love them w/ my love / reach them for My kingdom*

ABOUT BECOMING KINGDOM MINDED – SERVANT HEARTED!

When George Shultz served as Secretary of State he kept a large globe in his office. When meeting with US ambassadors he'd always quiz them.

He would tell them to walk to the globe, and point to their country.

Invariably, they'd pick the nation to which they'd been sent. And Shultz would give them a lesson in diplomacy... He would correct them, and point to the United States. Shultz wanted the ambassador to never forget the land where he lives is not his home. His home is the land that he represents.

And the same is true for *“an ambassador for Christ.”*

We're citizens of CHRIST's kingdom dispatched to this world.

How was Jesus' view point different from ours? He saw People as eternal & things as temporal

A) Good for us in our minds to put little red tags on everything in our lives that are not people / tags that read temporal! {Red fire is hot! – Burn

B) And put little green tags on all the people that read eternal!

1) Green = living life - Help us realize that everyone around us is going to spend eternity in Heaven or Hell!

C) I have said this before – resonates – Amen Pastor Rob – week later we forget

1) All worked up about something temporal

D) Thinking: Cards – Person – Green tag – Stuff – Red tag – keep in cars remind us

1) T-shirt – Person, green tag and car, red tag – Shirt would say: I am into green tags ask me why?

In order to be kingdom minded – we need to see life and the people in it the way that Jesus does!

A) Perhaps this will help. Insight Billy Graham

B) Remember what life before we knew Lord

4 characteristics mark people's lives without Christ Most struggle with at least one – Some – all!

A) #1 - Emptiness! No matter how much money, success, power - void!

B.) I think Billy Graham described the emptiness that those living in the U.S. experience when he said *America is said to have the highest per capita boredom of any spot on earth! We know that because we have the greatest number of artificial amusements of any country. People have become so empty that they can't even entertain themselves. They have to pay other people to amuse them, to make them laugh, to try to make them feel warm and happy and comfortable for a few minutes, to try to lose that awful, frightening, hollow feeling; that terrible, dreaded feeling of being lost and alone.*

C) A while back I was flying back from Oregon I was sitting / make up artist for the stars / talking about the affairs / lifestyle that business

1) (**Emptiness** / only Christ fill / hurt - Only Christ can heal)

D) Perhaps here - don't know Christ - He wants to fill the emptiness

2nd thing that every man apart from Christ is constantly dealing w/Loneliness

A) A person can have many friends; hit all the parties / yet deep down they are really lonely!

To point out how lonely people can be, Charles Swindoll mentioned an ad in a Kansas newspaper. It read, "I will listen to you talk for 30 minutes without comment for \$5.00." Swindoll said, "Sounds like a hoax, doesn't it? But the person was serious. Did anybody call? You bet. It wasn't long before this individual was receiving 10 to 20 calls a day. "The pain of loneliness was so sharp that some were willing to try anything for a half hour of companionship."

FACEBOOK FRIENDS – REALLY? FEEL WORTH – SOME people ACCEPT EVERY REQUEST.

B) Loneliness is the first thing that God's eye named not good.

1) God doesn't want people to be lonely -

James Lee was a man who was so grief stricken over the loss of his wife & daughter that – He shot himself in a Phone Booth -

In his pockets they found a child's crayon drawing, much folded and worn. On it was written, "Please leave in my coat pocket. I want to have it buried with me." The drawing was signed in childish print by his daughter, Shirley Lee, who had perished in a fire just five months before.

How many James Lees are there in this world? They don't wear signs saying "I'm lonely--will you help me?"

B) **Lonely today I would love to Introduce you to the greatest friend ever know! / Never leave you nor forsake you !/ Never let you Down**

3rd thing people who don't know Jesus / live with a sense of guilt!

A.) Head of a mental institution *"release 1/2 my patients if I could find a way to rid them of their guilt"*

B.)As Christians we know guilt is a symptom of a deeper problem called sin

1) **People feel guilt because they are guilty / missed the mark!**

C) They can't do anything to get rid of those feelings!

D) Only Jesus can get to the root of the problem and forgive them their sins

1.) Plagued by guilt today? Jesus can set free

4th thing There is a universal fear of death

A.) **People fear death - unknown what happens after they die!**

1.) Eats at them - Ignore it - put out of mind and live for moment - daily confronted in news

B) **These are 4 things that people are constantly dealing w/ -**

1) **Don't have to try & convince them – but state as fact**

C) **Why do people have affairs – empty & lonely**

1) **Why Drink & Party - Guilty –**

C) **Hollywood everything – not happy –**

Listen, that person that Christ has put upon your heart to reach out to is dealing w/ one or all of these 4 things! (It's a given)

B) Realizing that is where people are at helps to increase our sense of burden!

Jesus comes and fills the emptiness

Replaces the loneliness – part of His family {this is my family people tell me

Removes your guilt

Fear of death is replaced by a sense of Destiny – His kingdom