



## "FOLLOW ME"

MARK 1:16-20

### The unlikely recipients of Jesus' call

*Their lack of spiritual understanding;*

**MARK 4:13** (Also; 8:4, 16-21, 32-33; 9:10-13; 10:10, 24-27)

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

*Their lack of sympathy and care for people;*

**MARK 10:13-14** (Also; 6:35)

<sup>13</sup> And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, *and the disciples rebuked them.* <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

*Their lack of humility;*

**MARK 9:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for *on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.*

*Their unforgiving spirit;*

**MARK 10:41**

And when the ten heard it, *they began to be indignant at James and John.*

*Their lack of prayerfulness;*

**MARK 9:28-29** (Also; 14:37)

<sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> And he said to them, "*This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.*"

*Their lack of courage;*

**MARK 14:50** (Also; 14:66-72)

<sup>50</sup> And they all left him and fled.

**Consider the way in which Jesus comes to the disciples and speaks to them in a language they will understand and relate to (fishing). Jesus Himself was not a fisherman, but His call to them came in terms they could understand. What are some other instances in which Jesus is seen relating to people in terms they will easily understand?**

*Jesus will make them to become what they are not;*

**MARK 4:25**

<sup>25</sup> For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

**Spend some time imagining the experience of Zebedee, whose only appearance in the Scriptures is the one of being left behind in the boat. His wife is seen later as a follower of Jesus who asks a foolish question (Matthew 20:20-28) and again in great sorrow at the cross (Mark 15:40), but Zebedee himself does not again appear. What do you imagine were Zebedee's thoughts and feelings? Did he wish that he was called also? Was he resentful? Was he confused? What could it mean that his wife is seen following Jesus, but not him? Consider this in light of Mark 3:31-35. How do you think James and John felt when they heard Jesus say those words of His own earthly family?**

*Jesus' kingdom must point beyond His followers;*

**1 CORINTHIANS 1:26**

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

***Consider the assertion that this kingdom that Jesus is establishing must point beyond its followers. In what ways does Disciples Fellowship point beyond its followers? In what ways does Disciples Fellowship fail to do this?***

## **The sovereignty of Jesus' call**

*The authority of Jesus' spoken words;*

**MARK 1:25**

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, *saying*, "Be silent, and come out of him!"

**MARK 4:39**

<sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and *said* to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

**MARK 5:41**

<sup>41</sup> Taking her by the hand *he said to her*, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

**MARK 7:34**

<sup>34</sup> And looking up to heaven, he sighed and *said* to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

**MARK 11:14**

<sup>14</sup> And he *said* to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again."

**MARK 15:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

**PSALM 33:9**

<sup>9</sup> *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

***Mark desires for his reader to be amazed at the sovereign authority of Jesus' call—this must be the sole, ultimate reason for our obedience and service to the Lord. However, if each of us consider carefully our own motives for doing anything for God, we will likely find them to be a mixture of godly and ungodly motives. This can be spiritually disturbing, but it should be a reminder for each of us of just how impure we still are, and how desperately we need the covering of the righteousness of Christ.***

## **The kingdom of God is entirely the creation of God;**

*The disciples' decision testifies only of His greatness and His impelling influence over the hearts and minds of men, not of any astuteness or special perception on the part of those called*

***Jesus boldly places His call upon their lives in clear priority above their families and their income. Does this assertion by Jesus make you uncomfortable with His call?***

*The response of the disciple;*

**MARK 3:35**

<sup>35</sup> "...For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

**MARK 10:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake

and for the gospel,<sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life...”

***Try to imagine that you had never before read this story. How surprising would it be for the Son of God to begin His earthly kingdom in such an inauspicious manner?***

***Consider the vast difference between Jesus' call to follow Him, and all-too-typical “call” of modern evangelicalism (“Come to Jesus and He'll fix your family and prosper your business”). What can we glean from these stark differences?***

12/18/2022