

Mark (Part 3): “Come, Follow Me”

Intro:

- Mark was not one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, but he was around them in his youth.
- Mark was so deeply affected by those around him that he eventually gave his life for his faith.
- The book of Mark was written *by Mark for Peter to* a Roman audience.
- A central theme of the book of Mark is Jesus’ authority as the Messiah and the Son of God.
 - The first four weeks of our study of Mark is centered around the this, “The Pursuit.” As Jesus pursues us, we are called to pursue Him. This comes from Matthew 4:19 where we are called to follow (pursue) Jesus.

Mark 2:13-17 (NLT) Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. ¹⁴As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him. ¹⁵Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus’ followers.) ¹⁶But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with such scum?” ¹⁷When Jesus heard this, he told them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

- Levi later changed his name to Matthew. He is the author of the gospel of Matthew.
- Matthew, Andrew, Peter, James, and John had not made the cut to be considered as a disciple by other rabbis.
- To be chosen by Jesus was an incredible honor, especially for Matthew, who was a hated tax collector.
- Jesus is calling us to follow Him, as well, but _____ would we do that?
 - The honor is just as great for us!
- We also see some of the “HOW” to follow Jesus:
 - To follow Jesus, we have to start with an attitude of _____
 - The Pharisees thought they were righteous because of their good deeds. Most of them couldn’t receive Jesus as Lord because of their pride.
 - Jesus gave two odd analogies to help them understand this: “A new patch for old clothes” and “Putting new wine in old wineskins.” (**Mark 2:21-22**)
 - ◆ He was saying that in order to receive the new life He was bringing, people would have to get rid of their old ideas as to what would save them.
 - ◆ Are there old worldviews, or patterns of belief, that you need to let go of so that you can view the world as Jesus does and follow Him completely?

- Some followed Jesus for the wrong reasons. They only wanted what He could give them, and on their own terms. They wanted healing, food, popularity, etc.
- Others found the things only Jesus could give and will give to those who follow Him.
 - For some, it was acceptance and a place of belonging.

Mark 2:15 (NLT) Later, Levi invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. (There were many people of this kind among Jesus’ followers.)

- o There were so many sinners following Jesus because He _____ them.
 - ◆ These were the people no one else would accept.
 - ◆ Today is no different. People are told they don't fit in, or they aren't worth anything for a variety of reasons. They can't imagine God would be interested in them.
 - ◆ One of Satan's greatest lies is that Jesus is waiting for you to be good enough to be in relationship with Him.
- At the end of Chapter 3, we see what kind of relationship Jesus was inviting people into.

Mark 3:31-35 (NLT) ³¹Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. ³²There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." ³³Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" ³⁴Then he looked at those around him and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. ³⁵Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

- o Jesus was inviting His followers into His family.
 - o THAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP GOD DESIRES WITH YOU!
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Romans 8:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

- o We are royalty. Not because we deserve it, but because He invites us into it.
 - There's a _____ to following Jesus, but it's worth it!
 - o We now identify with him and leave our old life behind.
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Next Steps:

1. If you have never committed to follow Jesus, there is no better time than today!
 2. For those of us who are followers, it is not a one-time decision. Every day we need to commit anew to following Him.
 3. Ask God to invite people into your life who He wants you to share your faith with. The world is dying to know Him. Some just don't know it yet.
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Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

1. What from the sermon resonates with you?
 - a. How will it impact you this week?

As you read/listen to Mark 4:1-5:43, be thinking about:

2. What is Jesus saying and doing? How are people reacting to Him?
3. What is something new you see in Mark's account of Jesus? What questions do you have about what you are reading/listening to?
4. What is this passage showing you personally? How will you respond?
5. With whom will you share something God is showing you?

The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

May 27-June 2: **Mark 4:1-5:43** June 3-June 9: **Mark 6:1-52** June 10-June 16: **Mark 6:53-7:23**