



## Follow Me - The Calling of the Christian Life

Mark 1:9-20

- Gospel of Mark – probably the first Gospel written. It is a Gospel of immediacy. It goes from one story to the next, kind of like a child telling the story. And then this....and then that. Many of the details of stories are assumed.
- More than 90% of Mark's content appears in Matthew and more than 50% appears in Luke.
- There is a focus on Jesus' life and ministry. Matthew makes the genealogical connections to Jesus. John tells the big picture story (metanarrative.) Luke writes a carefully

researched compilation of Jesus' life and ministry and then the beginnings of the early church, making a connection between the two volumes – Luke and Acts.

- Mark is a clear synopsis of the highlights of Jesus' life.
- Sometimes, we need to be reminded of that – this is how Jesus lived. Now, you follow His example.

- We need examples – “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may learn. Involve me and I will remember.”

Main Point: The calling of the Christian life is to emulate Christ.

#### I. The presence of God

- a. Of course, Jesus is God. Just as the Holy Spirit is God and the Father is God.
- b. We see here a manifestation of God in three persons. *One essence. Three persons. This is vividly trinitarian.* Jesus is there in the flesh being baptized. The Spirit descends like a dove. The Father speaks out of the heavens.
- c. The presence of God in this moment is pervasive and undeniable.
- d. It's interesting that Jesus would be baptized. Just a few verses earlier Mark mentioned that others were being baptized as a sign of repentance.
- e. Jesus had nothing to repent of. The purpose of His baptism was the initiation of His ministry. Jesus is saying, “I am going to show you what it looks like to live a life that glorifies God.”
- f. This is what makes all the difference, Christian. It's not what you have to bring to the table. It's simply looking to His example and trusting in His presence.

- g. There are lots of Christians who are trying hard to live according to God's Word. ***But if you do this in your strength, you will fail.*** They feel like they have to prove themselves to others. So that others will know what kind of Christian they are.
- h. ***The Christian life is not about proving yourself to others. The Christian life is about trusting in your walk with God.***
  - i. There are others who come along side you to help you in that walk. And you come alongside others to help them in their walk.
  - ii. But we are here to emulate and serve the Lord, first and foremost. Others may lead us astray, but God never will.

## II. The sacrificial life

- a. Immediately, Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.
- b. This is a reality in the life of a Christian. Jesus' experienced temptation, and we will too.
- c. In fact, this has been the reality since the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden.
- d. We face difficulty in this life because of sin and the effects of sin.
- e. Did y'all know doing laundry was an effect of the fall??
  - i. Adam and Eve walked around naked before they sinned.
- f. The question isn't "Will difficulty, trial, or temptations come my way?" The question is – "How should I respond when it comes my way?"
- g. Who should we look to as our example in our response?
- h. If we are going to follow Jesus, that example will look sacrificial. That is the nature of the discipleship process.

- i. While there may be many churches who teach cheap discipleship – they’re an inch deep and a mile wide – the truth is that is not the true nature of following Jesus.
- j. It’s not easy. If your discipleship looks and feels easy, I would dare to say that you need to go deeper and further. You need to be challenged by the Word. You may be too comfortable.

### III. The purpose of the calling

- a. He goes to Simon and Andrew and says, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”
- b. What a beautiful picture. They’re working hard, trying to earn a living. Jesus said they have a change in their assignment. Don’t go looking for fish. You are called to fish for men.
- c. The purpose is not for us – But so that others may see the glory of God.
- d. It’s helpful to be reminded of why we pursue the Lord. It’s not just about us. So that we can be a better person or so that we can experience all the blessings God has to offer.
- e. It’s about the Kingdom.