

Theme: The Gospel of Mark

So Far:

- Witnesses
- Baptism
- Wilderness

Background:

Author: John Mark

- Barnabas' cousin
- Peter and Paul's coworker

Truths:

God uses His people to answer the prayers of others.

We should be about what Jesus is about.

Review: Ephesians 6:10-11 only leave a few words in each verse

Memory verse: Mark 2:17

Passage: Mark 1:14-20

Title: The Bottom of the Barrel

Main Text:

Vs 14

"After John was arrested"

- Indicates the end of John's preparatory ministry and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

- Sets the tone (Jesus's mission is unfolding in a hostile environment.)

"Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God"

- This is what John had hoped for.
- "He must increase, I must decrease"

Joining the mission of Christ requires an "I must decrease" mentality.

Are we determining how our lives serve the purpose of the Kingdom or how the Kingdom serve the purpose of our lives?

Vs15

"the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

How do we live in the Kingdom:

- Repent
- Believe
- Follow

Vs 16-17

"As he passed along the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew"

- Jesus breaks all traditions.
- He calls his disciples to follow him.
- He doesn't seek out the cream of the crop.

"Follow me, and I will make you fish for people"

- Repentance and belief will always result in action.
- Jesus doesn't have every detail.
- Jesus repurposes your skill set.

"God loves us the way we are, but he loves us too much to leave us that way"

He loves us in the midst of our brokenness, but His plan is to always remake us in His image.

Vs18-20

"Immediately they left their nets and followed him"

- The disciples responded without hesitation.
- "Delayed obedience is disobedience"

"And they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired man and followed him"

- Jesus' call has to take precedence over everything else in our life.

How would you respond if Jesus asked you to leave everything you've ever known?

"They left their nets" "their father" "the hired men"

- Their livelihood
- Their family
- Their security
- Their comfort

Take Aways:

- Obstacles and oppression do not thwart the will of God.
- We lose nothing if we gain Christ.
- Following Christ will always result in personal transformation.