

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 5, 2016

Follow Me
Mark 1:16-20

I. The call to fish (1:16-17)

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee,

- Jesus has shifted his ministry to Galilee

he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon

- Simon will be Peter in chapter 3

casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

- Fishing was different back then
- Modern fishing is different

17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me,"

- What is the significance of “follow me”?
 - More than temporary scavenger hunt
 - These fishermen will follow Jesus from place to place
 - They would become disciples or followers of Jesus
 - This was a call to discipleship
- Mark likes the term “follow” for discipleship
 - Mark 2:14-15, And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.
 - Mark 6:1, He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.
 - Mark 8:34, And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."
 - Mark 10:21, And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."
 - Mark 10:28, Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you."

“and I will make you become fishers of men.”

- Not just following for curiosity’s sake
- *Call to fish followed by Jesus modeling it, then the disciples sent out
 - Mark 3:14, And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach
 - Mark 6:12, So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.
- Mission to Israel → Mission to World
 - Great Commission, Acts 1:8
- Disciples’ Mission → Our Mission
 - 1 Peter 2, Called out of darkness into light to proclaim Him
 - 2 Corinthians 5, Ambassadors for Christ

II. The response to follow (1:18)

18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

- “Immediately they left... and followed”
- There was no discussion/deliberation among themselves
- There was no time needed to think things over
- There was no negotiation about following Jesus
- There was no cleanup of the fishing nets
- There was no fear of John the Baptist’s fate becoming their own
- They did not need to be convinced again about Jesus
- The action of Simon and Andrew illustrates prompt response

III. The episode repeated (1:19-20)

19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.

- “mending” could refer to fixing or preparing for the next fishing mission
- Just like Andrew and Simon, these brothers were engaged in fishing business

20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

- James and John display a sacrificial response to follow Christ
- James and John at least had comfortable family business
 - They inherited business from dad
 - They had their own boat
 - They had hired servants
 - They were well off
- “The power of the one who calls as God calls is the only explanation why these disciples respond immediately as they do.” (Garland Theology of Mark, 266)

- God's calls:
 - God spoke and creation happened
 - Psalm 33:6, By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. ...
 - Psalm 33:9, For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
 - God spoke and Abraham listened
 - Genesis 12 and Abraham
- Jesus' calls:
 - Jesus called these disciples
 - Jesus speaks and unclean spirits flee (Mark 1:25)
 - Jesus commands and nature obeys (Mark 4:39)
 - Jesus beckons and the dead are raised (Mark 5:41)