

Sermon, January 15, 2012
“The Baptism of Jesus”, Mark 1:16-20
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, **Mark**, Luke, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John write about Jesus birth, life, ministry of healing, ministry of teaching, miracles, passion, death, and resurrection.
- Each gives a slightly different view of the life of Christ written for different audiences and together gives us a clear picture of the life of Christ.
- Matthew writes to the Jews in narrative
- Mark writes to the Romans in narrative
- Luke writes to the Greeks in narrative
- John writes to all people in a greater theological context
- The gospels give a significant portion of their chapters to the last week of Jesus life (Matthew-25%, Mark-31%, Luke-21%, John-43%).

Overview of Mark :

- Mark was a companion of the Apostle Peter and wrote his gospel from the remembrance of Peter
- Early church fathers speak of the gospel of Mark as the memoirs of Peter
- The time of the writing is around 50 AD.
- Mark wrote for a Roman Christian audience
- Often uses descriptive terms to clearly translate Aramaic and Greek language as well as explain Jewish customs
- Uses the word immediately 40 times, sense of expediency, movement

Overall Outline of Mark:

1. The Introduction to the Gospel (1:1-1:13)
2. The Beginning of the Ministry (1:14-3:6)
3. The Expansion of the Ministry (3:7-8:26)
4. The Ministry to the Twelve (8:27-10:52)
5. The Ministry in Jerusalem (11:1-13:37)
6. The Suffering of the Servant (14:1-15:47)
7. The Resurrection of the Servant (16:1-20)

Major Themes of Mark:

- Mark depicts Jesus as Servant, written to the Romans.
- Jesus as God is implied in the many miracles contained in Mark.
- Demonstrates the humanity of Jesus more than the other gospels; tired, hungry, sleeping, sighing deeply...

The very start of Jesus ministry He sees, He speaks, and He calls ordinary people to follow Him.

1. Jesus seeks out and chooses those who are His...

- **Mark 1:16-20** ¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, **he saw** Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea-- for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And **Jesus said** to them, "**Follow me** and **I will make you fish for people.**" ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, **he saw** James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately **he called them**; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.
- Jesus is baptized in the Jordan river, spends 40 days in the desert tempted yet true, and starts out by seeing, calling and instructing those who would follow.

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- He begins His ministry starting relationships that would become close and intimate.
- Jesus begins to cultivate a relationship with His disciples, He first sets His gaze upon them, calls to them, instructs them...to follow Him.

2. Jesus sees Simon and Andrew, James and John...

- **Mark 1:16, 19** ¹⁶ *As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, **he saw** Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea-- ... ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, **he saw** James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.*
- Of all the people meandering by the shore, manning their boats, tending their nets, doing their jobs...Jesus brings His focus on each one.
- Look at Peter...
 - Mark: Peter is casting a net
 - Matthew: Peter casting a net
 - Luke 5: Jesus sees Peter upon entering his house's after preaching in the area to heal Simon's mother in law, Jesus teaching by the shore see's Peter as He stands in Peter's boat,
 - John: Andrew (follower of John the Baptist) runs to Peter to tell him they have found the Messiah, Jesus see's Peter through Andrew...
- In the same way Jesus casts His eyes upon you and begins to work in your heart.
- When were you confronted with the gaze of Jesus? At home, Sunday School, fellow worker, Billy Graham, preacher, family?
- When that penetrating gaze locks in on you, what follows?

3. Jesus “calls out” to Peter, Andrew, James, John...

- **Mark 1:17, 20** ¹⁷ *And **Jesus said** to them, "**Follow me** and **I will make you fish for people.**" ²⁰ Immediately **he called them**;*
- His gaze is not just something that you stare at, wonder about, imagine,...it is followed by hearing Him
- It may start out as a faint almost inaudible voice to your inner being, but it grows...or you may be under His gaze and hear His voice loud and clear...
- It may take a while as you try to avoid His eyes, but you will hear His voice... “Follow Me!”

4. Jesus calls His people to follow Him...

- **Mark 1:16-20** ¹⁷ *And **Jesus said** to them, "**Follow me** and **I will make you fish for people.**" ²⁰ Immediately **he called them**;*
- Jesus does not call out without explicit, simple direction...**follow me**, now and always, continuously...
- We are to continue to follow. Now and always.

Conclusion

- Jesus mission is spreading the good news of God's grace and the making of disciples.
- He speaks again and again until His voice is clearly heard as He calls out to you, not only once but in a continuous voice...“Follow me!”
- Jesus mission was one of intimacy, relationship, pursuing those He loves... sent that we who truly believe, truly follow, will have life everlasting in an eternal relationship with the Almighty God.
- ***The very start of Jesus ministry He sees, He speaks, and He calls ordinary people to follow Him ...see Him, hear Him and follow Him!***