

HE CALLED THEM

MARK 1:14-20

Text:

Introduction:

As we begin; understand that John the Baptist has now been imprisoned for preaching. When John finished his preaching, the Lord began.

Remember this: *The silencing of Christ's ministers shall not be the suppressing of Christ's gospel; if some be laid aside, others shall be raised up, perhaps mightier than they, to carry on the same work.*

On this day as the morning broke and night faded we see some hard working men engaged in the work that they did each day.

These men were used to seeing the sun rise over the Sea of Galilee. They were fishermen, and they would fish at night while the fish were feeding.

After the night of fishing they would sort and clean their catch, mend their nets, and sell their catch to the markets.

Being a fisherman was a hard job, but it put food on the table and provided them a place to live.

As they were finishing up their work on this morning the Lord came walking by, and that which he said would forever change the direction and course of their lives.

In this passage we see the characteristics of the Lord's call.

Notice:

1. HIS CALL IS PERSONAL

A. He called these four personally

When the Lord called:

1. He found them working

Peter and Andrew are casting their net. John and James are mending theirs.

Illustration:

This call was all inclusive when we consider the Great Commission.

Peter and Andrew were always casting the Gospel net! They were either preaching fiery sermons, or they were bringing people to Jesus.

On the other hand, James and John spent time mending the Gospel net to ensure that the fish did not swim away. Their main emphasis seemed to be the progression and growth of the church and the body of Christ.

It's interesting the same word that is translated mending in this verse is used in Eph. 4:12. It is translated there as perfecting.

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

There are times the church needs mending.

Peter and Andrew were busy with evangelism; James and John were busy with edification.

The point is this; the Lord designed each of us for a specific purpose.

2. HIS CALL IS PUBLIC

The Lord does His private work, but He gets no glory until His will is worked out publically. These men are called upon to make a public stand for Jesus. They are called upon to publically line up with Him, His preaching and His program.

God did not save us and call us so that we could hide ourselves away and pretend that we are just like everyone else. His call demands that we take our stand with Him, regardless of what others may say about us!

3. HIS CALL IS PRECIOUS

- These men were nothing special.
- They were just common, ordinary fishermen.
- They were not highly educated.
- They were not especially wealthy.

Nothing set them apart from the thousands of others who lived around the Sea of Galilee. Yet, the Lord chose them and called them to be the first of His followers. What a privilege they enjoyed!

Remember this:

God often locates His finest treasures in the most obscure places.

- He chose David out of the pasture field over all his older brothers – 1 Samuel 16.
- He chose Moses at the age of 80 who was a murderer and fugitive from the law now on the backside of the desert – Exodus 3.

He chose Paul who hated the church and the Lord – Acts 9.

He chose a small boy and his lunch to feed a multitude of people – John 6.

Most often the Lord chooses those whom no one else would choose, so that He might get the greatest glory.

1 Corinthians 1:27

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

4. HIS CALL IS PRICEY

These men were called upon to make some real expensive choices.

They are called to leave their

- Friends
- Families
- Fortune

They were called to trade the certain for the uncertain; the visible for the invisible; the known for the unknown; their ability for their inability; the possible for the impossible.

This was a call that would cost them everything.

In the end, all but one would die as a martyr for this call and cause, yet they determined that the price was worth it.

5. HIS CALL WAS POWERFUL

When the Lord's call came, these men left their nets and their profession without question.

They did not call a committee meeting, have a debate, take a vote, ask about a contract, or a length of service.

When Jesus called, these men left everything to follow Him immediately!

They left their ships, stepped away from life as they knew it and followed the Lord.

They experienced a powerful change of life.

Their lives were never the same again.

There was instant obedience.

When they started out after Jesus, they began walking His direction, to His destination.

6. HIS CALL IS PROFOUND

All these men knew was the life of a fisherman. When Jesus called them to follow He made them a promise that was framed in words they understood. He told them they would still be fishing, but from now on, they would be angling for men.

He promised to take them as they were and make them into what He wanted them to become. And, that is just what He did! He changed each of these men and used them in powerful, profound ways for the glory of God. Jesus caused them to become what they had never been and what they had never intended to be.

Close:

When Jesus came walking by those ships that day, those four men were not wasting their time. Two were casting nets. This was important, because if you do not cast a net, you will not catch the fish. Two others were mending their nets; they knew that if there were holes in the nets any fish that would be caught could swim free.

They were busy, but they were not doing anything of eternal value.

In other words, they would have lived their lives, caught their fish, raised their families, died and been forgotten; if Jesus had not called them to a new life.

When they followed Jesus, their lives instantly possessed eternal value. God used them in ways that still impacts the world today.

That is what He does to ever life He touches! He takes us away from the mundane and the shallow and places us in a position where we can be a part of something that will last forever.