

The King's Call
Mark 1:14-20
September 16, 2012

Introduction

We know from Scripture that when a person has repented and turn to God, that the person has responded to God's effectual call. We see throughout Scripture God's calling out to man and they respond. It is a beautiful moment when God reaches out to lost sinners and saves them. Paul says in

***Romans 10:14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

The Holy Spirit does not operate outside the Word and the Word does not pierce the heart apart from the Holy Spirit of God. When God calls, the change is miraculous and total.

Consider Abraham. When Stephen preached to the Jews about their own unbelief, he told them that God called Abraham out of Ur,

***Acts 7:2** And he [Stephen] said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran."*

***Genesis 12:1** Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you."*

Joshua said that Abraham's father was an idolater. Here God tells Abraham to leave his family and move to an unknown land. Abraham was about 75 years old.

Consider Moses. He had all the wealth and education of Egypt. He was eighty years old when God calls Moses to lead His people. He became a man of selfless devotion.

***Exodus 3:4** So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

Consider Samuel. He was a boy when God calls him to be His prophet and judge.

***1 Samuel 3:10** Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."*

Today, we consider Jesus' calling and how effective it was.

***Mark 1:14-20** Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.*

I. The General Call of the King (14-15)

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Note: This is about 6 months after John baptized Jesus. In the Gospel of John we know that Jesus did some work in Jerusalem after the temptation. Here Mark records Jesus' first Galilean ministry.

- Preaching the Gospel
 - Simple message
- Context of the Gospel
 - Gospel of God
 - Gospel about God
 - Gospel from God

Note: The word Gospel means the best news. What is the best news? God sent His Son into the world so that through Him, we'd be reconciled to God.

- Time is fulfilled

Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

Note: This is the hour that the world has been waiting for since the Fall. The Savior who will pay the penalty for sin and provide salvation for all those who believed has arrived.

- Kingdom of God
 - Is at hand
 - Here at this moment
 - Not in time, but in space—in the person of Jesus Christ
 - Spiritual kingdom
 - Not visible
 - Ruled by Jesus as King, ruling all those who belong to Him
 - Future kingdom
 - Not yet
 - Future, eternal visible reign of Christ in the new heaven and earth

Note: When Jesus began proclaiming the gospel, He was King veiled in human flesh. No one recognized Him as king.

Transition: How do we get into this Kingdom?

- Message of the Gospel
 - Repent
 - Turn from sin
 - Hatred to sin
 - Giving up old ways
 - Believe
 - Turning to Jesus

- Total allegiance
- Continuous action from present to future (unchanging action)
- No other message is acceptable

II. The Effectual Call of the King (16-20)

16And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 17Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 19When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. 20And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him.

- Sea of Galilee
 - 13 miles long (north/south) and 7 miles wide (east/west)
 - Shaped like harp
 - Plenty of fish
 - Many harbors on the shore
 - Fishermen
 - Successful business—Peter and Zebedee were not poor fishermen
 - Main Mediterranean meat was fish (not cow or sheep)
- Jesus' action
 - He saw—Jesus started this
 - He called them
 - To follow Him
 - To enter His service
 - I will make you become fishers of men
 - What He did (drawing men to Himself), they will do the same for Him
 - High cost of service

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

Mark 8:34 *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Note: In effect, Jesus is saying, "Join Me. Drop your business, your way of life and follow Me."

- Fishermen's reaction

Luke 5:8 *When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

- Immediately
 - Left their business
 - Their family
 - Their lives committed to Jesus

John 15:16 *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

Application

Mark notes the urgency of the gospel with “immediately.” Provision has been made for men to repent, but there is no time for delay. Christ Jesus has called for us to repent and believe. Have you responded to His call? Have you given your whole life over to Him? Today is the day of salvation.