**04 God Calls the Lowly to Become Fishers of Men Mark 1-14-20**

* **2 Pic Mark 1-14-20**

**A. The Forerunner of the Kingdom: John the Baptist Is Arrested**

* **Pic Bg:** John rebuked Herod the tetrarch for taking his brother’s wife, H/ero/di/as (Matt. 14:3–4; Luke 3:20)
* John was martyred by the earthly kingdom (world) (Mark 6:17–29)
* Jesus was crucified by the earthly kingdom (world)
* We lived in a world where Earthly kingdoms (world) oppose the Kingdom of God
* **Ap:** Serving God sometimes comes with a heavy price to pay
* When John was arrested, Christ began proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom in Galilee.
* **Ask:** Why didn’t Jesus travel to save John? Why not send angels to deliver him out of prison?
* **Ask:** Would you still believe in Jesus who did not deliver you out of the death?
* **Mark 8:34…** If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
* **Mark 1:15...**"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
* **B. Christ Explains How to Enter the Kingdom**

 Attending the church, joining worship, and serving God does not entitle you to enter the Kingdom.

 **(A) Repent** — change your mind, turn from sin to God.

 Repentance is not just feeling sorry for sin — it is turning away from sin and turning to God.

 **(B) Believe in the gospel** — believe Jesus is the Son of God and he was crucifed for your sin (1Cor 15:1–4)

* **Mark 1:16.** Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

**C. Jesus Recruits uneducated, lowly men for the Kingdom**

* **Pic** Calls four fishermen: Simon Peter and Andrew, James and John

 They are ordinary men with no special abilities, status, or intellectual background (1Cor 1:26–28)

 **Contrast:** elites in Jerusalem vs. despised men in Galilee (“Galilee of the Gentiles” Matt. 4:15; John 7:52)

* **1Co 1:** **28 God chose what is low and despised in the world...**

 **Ap:** What’s truly frightening is not that the world despises us, but that we despise ourselves.

 **Ap:** The calling and election of God is greater than all these, 1 corin 1:28

* **Mark 1:17.** And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

**D. The Gift of Transformation for Those Who Follow Jesus**

* **Follow:** **learn** from Jesus and His teachings, **imitate** Him, **Love** righteousness and hate sin, as He does
* **Promise:** “I will make you become fishers of men.”
* This is a promise for everyone of us: as we follow Him, in due time the fishes will come.
* But first, before we can become fishers of men, each of us must love and follow Jesus.
* Jesus is present with his in our hearts thru his Holy Spirit (John14:16-17; Gal4:6)
* **Pic** Discipleship takes time. E.g. Durain tree. takes about 5-7 years to start bearing fruit
* **Mark 1:18**. And immediately they **left their nets** and followed him.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.20.And immediately he called them, and they **left their father Zebedee** in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**E. Laying Down What Hinders You and Following Jesus Wholeheartedly**

* Left their nets (what is most important) to the fishers men
* **Ap:** Leaving down your what is your best tresured and follow Jesus whole heartedly
* **2 Pic** Eg: Gave up all my comics. I follow the character in the comics, behave and act like him.
* **Pic** Eg: gave up the treasured pronography
* **Ap:** Give up the secret treasured things inside your heart which you Jesus ask you to give up
* **Ap:** Follow Jesus and believe that he will reward you and bless you

 They temporarily left family to follow Christ.

 James and John left their father Zebedee; Peter temporarily left his wife (Matt. 8:14; 1 Cor. 9:5).

 This is not a universal command to give up your family.

 **Ap:** Apostles and missionaries gave up in varying degrees to follow Jesus.

**Reflection:**

* John the Baptist gave his life for the Kingdom
* **Pic** The disciples gave up their nets and follow Jesus, are you willing to follow Jesus
* If you are willing to follow Jesus, you are blessed, as at due time Jesus will make you fishers of men