



Lectionary Bible Study Our Savior Lutheran Church

Season of Epiphany Readings and Psalm

Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Live Bible Study Hosted on Zoom
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM

More Info & Link at www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy

Mark 1:14-20 (NRSV)

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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.

Mark 1:14-20 (The Message)

¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: ¹⁵ "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

¹⁶ Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." ¹⁸ They didn't ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

¹⁹ A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. ²⁰ Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

Mark's Gospel, noted by a sense of immediacy and urgency, invites the listener to hear the core message of the gospel of Jesus captured in verse 15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

1. Think through and contemplate the meaning of the 4 important phrases in verse 15:
 - a. "the time is fulfilled"
 - b. "has come near"
 - c. "repent"
 - d. "believe in the good news"

After proclaiming the good news of God, the first thing Jesus does is recruit followers. Whatever else is true about the good news that “the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come near,” it is **not** a one person show. The first thing that comes with the announcement of good news is the creating relationships and building of community. In verses 16-20 Jesus calls his first disciples, two sets of brothers, fisherman all.

2. *What do we know about the fishing profession in Jesus’ day and why might Jesus first invite fishermen to follow him?*
3. *Do you think there is any significance in the fact that the first disciples are called in pairs (and even related)?*

Mark wastes no time in moving forward in his Gospel and offers little descriptive detail. Twice he uses the word “immediately” to describe how the disciples elect to follow Jesus.

4. *Why do you think Mark seems to rush forward in the telling of the Gospel bearing his name?*
5. *Why do you think the disciples responded affirmatively “immediately?”*

Some scholars suggest that these fishermen may have already known or had some familiarity with Jesus. Perhaps they had been followers of John the B who had just been arrested. Regardless, according to Mark, they seem to neither ponder nor procrastinate. Jesus calls and they respond.

6. *Would the disciples knowing Jesus prior to this call story change the way you hear it or interpret it?*
7. *What is the difference between pondering and procrastinating?*
8. *Where do you see yourself in your discipleship? Pondering, procrastinating, following?*

In the calling of these first disciples, Jesus interrupts their work with a two-part invitation. These fishermen are invited to follow Jesus *and* to invite others to follow Jesus.

9. *Does Jesus ask the fisherman to give up their vocation?*
10. *Which is harder: to follow or to invite others to follow?*