

Mark – 1. 16-20

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An Ordinary Story

- Many spectacular stories in Mark, this is not one of them.
- Ordinary people / ordinary lives.
- An ordinary story with extraordinary implications.

Lenses

How God's Kingdom works.

How a response to Jesus' call to follow looks.

How God's Kingdom works

- God is serious about transformation. Jesus puts his money where his mouth is.
- Ordinary fishermen (not super stars) are selected to join in the mission early on.
- Do we consider ourselves viable candidates for Kingdom citizenship? (because God does)
- God and Partnership/Empowerment / Israel / Judges / Prophets / Kings.
- A key component of God's plan for global renewal is normal people (we are people).
- Great news / Purpose beyond existence / selfishness.
- Did these fishermen know what they were getting into?
- The Big Lie: We have worth because of how we perform and what we produce.
- The upside down Kingdom / God loves because of who he is not what you do.
- Identity/meaning/worth doesn't flow out of what we produce or how we perform. What we produce flows out of our identity.

How a response to Jesus' call to follow looks

- They left everything. There was an obvious shift of focus from fishermen to disciples.
- Following Jesus isn't a hobby / Takes some leaving / Citizenship in the Kingdom isn't a part time job.

- To accept the Kingdom is to accept the reign of God in our lives.
- “You can’t have Christ if you don’t serve him” – Spurgeon.
- Either you’re in or you’re out. If you’re in it’s amazing, but it takes some sacrifice.
- We struggle because we live in two worlds.
- The reversal of the catch – they used to fish and the catch benefited them. Now they fish and sacrifice to benefit the catch.
- This is challenging. A new upside down Kingdom.
- The challenge of Kingdom living. Wrestling with imperfection.
- Citizenship in the Kingdom doesn’t make perfect member of it.
- The first follower’s track records weren’t great, and they brought very little to the table. We find ourselves in similar circumstances.
- The Gospel opposes performance based living. God loves and calls us. Out of this love and calling we serve. We are not loved and called because of how we’ve acted or what we bring to the table.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you struggle with the idea that God loves or have called you to do something or be part of something greater?
- What, do you think, lies at the root of that struggle?
- Why does God select the “ordinary” to work through?
- How does an understanding of your own “ordinariness” and God’s goodness through Jesus, aid us in following him?
- Share a story of when you felt you understood grace and calling best.