

“Follow Me”

Mark 1:16-20

INTRODUCING MARK, THE MAN

1. Mark is also known as ‘John Mark’. “John whose other name was Mark” Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37

- Mark was his name in the Greek-speaking Roman world. Acts 15:39; Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; Philemon 24
- John was his Jewish name. He was often called John Mark.

→ John was a Jew who lived and moved in non-Jewish (Gentile) circles. Acts 15:37

2. Mark’s mother was named Mary and was associated with the early followers of Jesus. Acts 12:6-17

- He was a relative (perhaps a nephew) of Barnabas.

3. Mark was not one of the 12 disciples, but he was closely associated with them.

- Mark is mentioned many times in Acts, traveling with Peter and Paul.

4. Mark is closely associated with the apostle Peter.

- Peter calls him “Mark, my son.” 1 Peter 5:13
- Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis (ca. 140 AD): “Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately whatever he remembered of the things said and done by the Lord, but not however in order.”
- From a prologue to a copy of Mark’s gospel (ca. 160-180 AD): “...Mark....was the interpreter of Peter. After the death of Peter himself he wrote down this same gospel in the region of Italy.”
- Irenaeus (ca. 175 AD): “And after the death of these Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, also transmitted to us in writing the things preached by Peter.”

→ all 3 mention Mark put in writing what he heard from Peter.

JESUS’ CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

1. Jesus’ call was for future generations.

- The good news of the kingdom of God was not intended only for those who lived in Jesus’ day.
- 2 Timothy 2:2: and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2. Jesus’ call was to ordinary (and sinful) men.

- Simon, Andrew; James, John
- Fisherman. Uneducated, common men. Ref. Acts 4:13
- But not limited to a social, economic, or ethnic group. Ref. Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)
- This was not their first interaction with Jesus. Ref. a year earlier. John 1:35-42

3. Jesus’ call has three basic parts.

- “Follow me...”
-OT prophets all called God’s people to follow God. Uniquely, Jesus calls people to follow *Him*.

→ Is this happening?

- “...and I will make you become...”
-Jesus is making us into something.

→ Is Jesus ‘making’ me? Am I ‘self-made man’ or a ‘Jesus-made man’? Am I ‘becoming’?

- “...fishers of men.”
-Having an eye and a heart towards others.

→ Is this happening?

FINAL THOUGHTS...

1. Jesus had the authority to call them.

2. Fishing is a tricky business. Ref. Matthew 13:47-50

3. In the historical context of the Bible, the call to be fishers of men is a call to the task of gathering people in preparation for the coming judgment of God—either deliverance or damnation.

Some Relevant Scriptures...

God using Israel's enemies to "fish" them out of the promised land and into exile...

- Amos 4:1-2: Hear this word, you... who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!' The Lord God has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.
- Habakkuk 1:14-15: *Why* have You made people like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler over them? The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, drag them away with their net, and gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore they rejoice and are joyful.

God rescued His people by "fishing" them out of exile...

- Jeremiah 16:14-16: "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵but 'As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers. ¹⁶"Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the Lord, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.

God's judgment on the nations by catching them like fish...

- Ezekiel 29:3-4: Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.' ⁴I will put hooks in your jaws, and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales; and I will draw you up out of the midst of your streams...
- Ezekiel 38:3-4: Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. ⁴And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen...

God's judgment and salvation when Jesus returns...

- Matthew 13:47-50: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Answer to the question from 2 weeks ago...

"...I do believe that... any human being anywhere is well within his right to do whatever is necessary by any means necessary to protect his life and property especially in a country where the federal government itself has proven that it is either unable or unwilling to protect the lives and property of those human beings."

Who said this?

_____ James Madison _____ Robert E. Lee X Malcomb X _____ Ronald Reagan