

# Message Transcript

## DROP THE NETS | THE KINGDOM BREAKS IN AARON BROCKETT | JANUARY 24 & 25, 2026

So good to be with everyone this weekend as we are "surviving" the frigid temps. Hope you guys are doing well.

If you have a Bible go ahead and grab it and find Mark, chapter 1. And if you are joining us for the very first time we started a year-long study in the gospel of Mark. What that means is that we are going to spend most of 2026 just walking our way verse by verse through Mark's gospel.

We'll take a couple of breaks here and there. We'll divide it up into parts. We'll have different graphics and some things to kind of keep things fresh, but most of the year we're just going to be working our way through Mark's gospel verse by verse.

Now, an analogy that I like to think about when I'm preparing a message... I don't know if any of you have ever been to New York City or London and you see those two-decker red buses—you know what I'm talking about?

And you can pay a fee and you can get on and there is a tour guide pointing out some things for you to look at. And you can get off whenever you want and kind of walk around. You can get back on the bus and kind of finish the circuit. That's kind of what I think about when I think about moving our way through Mark's gospel.

Everybody get on the bus. I'm going to point some things out in the text. If we want to get off here we can, kind of explore this a little bit, how this applies to our life. And then we're going to get back on and kind of drive to the end of the passage. That's just kind of how my mind works.

And so, we are in week three of Part 1 of the messages. So, the whole series is called The Urgent Kingdom. Part 1 is called "The Kingdom Breaks In." And Part 1 is going to take us to the end of chapter 3.

Now, as we've already said, this entire gospel just moves with urgency. And right out of the gate in verse 1 from a couple of weeks ago Mark tells us that there is a King who has come and He will return to usher in His Kingdom with Good News. In today's passage we're going to see Jesus officially launching into His ministry and He's moving with urgency as well. He just has no time to waste.



Over the past couple of weeks we've already been with Jesus at His baptism, and then last weekend we were with Jesus out in the wilderness and He faced off with Satan, our great adversary. We kind of learned how temptation works and who brings the temptation and what is at stake and how to face it like Jesus faced it.

Now, as we come to verse 16—we're going to cover verses 16 through 20 today—Jesus is emerging from the wilderness. He's a few pounds lighter and He's battle tested. And from there He immediately—we could say it this way, He gets on mission. In other words, He's going to launch into the reason why He came to earth.

Now, Mark is going to answer a couple of questions for us. Here are the questions if you are jotting down some notes:

### **What kind of a King is He?**

And really the answer to that is: He is an authoritative one. He is so authoritative that He can actually call people to follow after Him. That's what we're going to get into here in just a minute. He's a King of authority.

### **What kind of a Kingdom has come?**

And then the third question is:

### **What does that require of me?**

What kind of King is He? What kind of Kingdom is coming? And if all of that is true, then what does that require of us?

Let's start in verse 16—we'll go through verse 18 and then we'll keep trucking. It says:

"One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once," maybe your translation says immediately, that's Mark's favorite word, "and followed him." (NLT)

What I want you to see here is the very first thing that Jesus does is He steps out to pick His team. It's kind of like, if you are going to play pick up basketball, you've got to have a good team. If you are going to do well in a golf scramble, you've got to make sure you've got a good fourth. I've never played pickle ball but I hear that you probably need a good pickle ball partner if you're going to do well.



And Jesus has a mission so He picks His team because He's seeking to accomplish His mission. And where He goes is to the Sea of Galilee. Mark says He's just walking along side the shore of the sea.

Now, I just want to go ahead and point this out—it says Sea of Galilee. It's really not a sea. I want you to get this in your mind's eyes. It's just a large, freshwater lake. It's about 13 miles long and about seven miles wide. In fact, when I was in Israel a few years ago I snapped this picture on a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. And in many ways... You ever been out to Lake Tahoe? It kind of looked a little bit like Lake Tahoe. And it was just gorgeous. And it's below sea level and there was a thriving fishing industry on this lake.

So, get this picture in your mind. Big lake, Jesus is walking along side of the shore and He stumbles across several young men who were just working that day. They were working in a fishing business and for many of them it was a family fishing business.

Now, John, in his gospel tells us that Andrew had already introduced his brother, Simon, to Jesus. And he said, "Hey, we've found the Messiah." I'm pointing this out to let you know that this is likely not the first time that they would have seen Jesus or met Jesus. Very likely, they would have been familiar with Him. They would have maybe heard Him talk or maybe they would have been around Him or they would have bumped into Him somewhere. They were familiar with Jesus.

What Mark is telling us here is that this is the first formal calling from Jesus into their lives. And in the same way, man, you might be familiar with Jesus in the sense that you grew up in church. Maybe you went to Catholic mass. Maybe, like me, you attended Christian school K-12. Maybe you are kind of living off of your mom and dad's faith. You kind of borrowed their faith. But maybe you've never really made faith your own.

And we would say, "Well, do you know Jesus? Are you a Christian?"

"Well, I believe in Him."

"I didn't ask that. Do you know Him?"

"Well, I grew up in church."

"Yeah, but did you grow up in Christ? There is a difference."



So, the difference between being familiar with Jesus—a lot of us are familiar with Jesus—but are you following Jesus? That's different. You can know about Jesus but really not know Jesus.

And what Jesus is doing is He is calling these regular guys away from their regular jobs and their families to full devotion to Him. And He says, "I want you to follow Me," which is something that students would do to a Rabbi in the first century.

Now, the way that you would learn in the first century wasn't in a classroom. It wasn't listening to a prof giving a lecture. You would follow around a Rabbi 24/7. It was education via experience.

In fact, there was this phrase that they would oftentimes use to capture a really good student. They would say, "Hey, are you covered in the dust of your Rabbi?" Which basically meant in dusty Palestine where you walked everywhere, "Are you walking so close behind a guy? Are you emulating him? Are you following him wherever he goes? Are you so close to him that you can listen to everything that he is saying so that the dust that is getting kicked up by his sandals is covering you."

Kind of gross. But that's what they would say, "I'm covered in the dust of my Rabbi. I'm a really, really good student."

Now, here is another little bit of a twist. Rabbis rarely ever called students to follow them, students would ask Rabbis if they could follow them. But here Jesus is flipping that. Jesus is going to these guys saying, "I want you to follow me as a Rabbi."

Think about it just for a second. How much confidence would you have to have to walk up to a group of people who had full-time jobs and say, "Leave your full-time job and follow me."? I mean, that takes real authority to ask that of another individual. To leave everything that they knew to follow after Him. These guys were not looking for a Jesus internship. Jesus found them.

And, by the way, as you read through the text, it wasn't a negotiation but a summons. Have you ever gotten a summons to jury duty? Three of you. And you are trying to figure out how to get out of it?

Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Hey, guys. I was kind of thinking about it. Maybe some time you might want to kind of hang out." No. He doesn't do any of that. He goes, "I want you to immediately follow me." And He offers to redefine their identity and their priority and their purpose.



Guys, these were ordinary fishermen who would be leaving their nets, their livelihood, their families, and their security. By the way, all of those things would have informed their identity. Being in a family business, which would have informed who they were. They were fishermen, and their family fished for a living. This was a big ask. And I doubt that Jesus carried health and dental.

Now, there are a lot of things that you can read in the Bible. Think about all of the things, both Old and New Testament that God asked ordinary people like you and me to do. There are a lot of things that you and I will never do.

You and I will never build an ark. We will never walk on water. It would be super cool but we won't. You might see an AI video of somebody walking on water, but you won't ever walk on water. You will never slay a giant with a slingshot. You will never do any of those things.

But this passage isn't one of them. In fact, it is what every single one of us are asked to do by Jesus. If you are a Christian, if you are a follower of Jesus, then Jesus is asking you to do what He has just asked them to do.

And when Jesus calls you, it's not to just believe in Him. In fact (we're going to look at this next week) even the demons believe in Jesus. But that does not mean that they are saved.

Belief is a big part of it, but it is only part of it. So, He doesn't just ask you to believe in Him, He doesn't ask you to be inspired by Him, He asks you to make Him Lord and Savior of your life. He asks you to follow Him. So, can I just ask you this question today? I want you to give a little bit of thought to this:

### **How are you called to Jesus?**

Have you ever heard somebody talk like that? They are like, "What do you mean? What do you mean by that term?" Because it seems maybe a little bit general. We know in the text as we are looking at this that Jesus is literally saying to the guys, "I want you to literally leave your nets and follow after Me." And that's what they did.

But when Jesus says, "I'm calling you to follow Me," what does that mean? Does that mean we should all quit our jobs? I hope not. Now, maybe. Maybe you should quit your job. But it can't mean that every single one of us would quit our jobs because we still have responsibilities and bills to pay and families to raise. It doesn't mean that we all leave the marketplace and go into full-time ministry. That would be a disaster.



So, what does it mean? Because people can get weird, honestly. When it comes to, "Well, God told me to do this." Or, "God called me to do this."

My favorite is when somebody comes up and is like, "Hey, you know what Pastor? I really think you should let me do this in the church because God called me to." And I'm like, "Well, God didn't tell me that. He didn't tell me you should do that. He didn't tell me to give you an open mic." People can use the God called me to thing and it gets really, really weird.

It kind of reminds me of that young married couple. They weren't married yet. They were dating and he popped the question and she tells her parents, "Hey, Mom and Dad, my boyfriend just asked me to marry him and I said yes. We're engaged."

And they were shocked, "We hardly even know this kid." So, they invited him over for dinner. And so their daughter and this young man come over for dinner and they sit down at the table and they had this awkward conversation around the meal. And then afterward the father says to the young man, "Hey, young man, I'd really like to talk to you in my den for a few minutes."

So, they go into the den and he says to him, "Well from what I understand you have intentions to marry my daughter. So, I've just got to ask you, what are you going to do for work?" And the young man looks confidently at him and he says, "Sir, don't worry about it. God will provide. He has called me."

And he says, "Well, okay. How are you going to pay for the bills?" And he goes, "Sir, I really don't think that you need to worry about it. God will provide." "Well, where are you going to live?" And He goes, "Well, sir. Once again. I just believe that God will provide."

So, as the young man and the young girl are leaving that night, as they are pulling out of the driveway, they are looking at them waving goodbye. And she says, "How did the conversation go." And he goes, "Well, honey. I've got some good news and some bad news."

She goes, "Well, hit me with the bad news." And he says, "Well, our daughter is getting ready to marry a young man who has no job, no money, and no place to live." And she said, "Good heavens. What's the good news?"

"That young man thinks I'm God."



See, we can get weird when we start talking about the calling of God. We are like, "Well, I feel like God's called me to do this and this." So, could I just be very, very clear? Jesus is not inviting you to be a part of a cult or to go live in a commune. Just because you've become a Christian doesn't mean that you don't have responsibilities and a job and bills and all of that.

So, let me get really, really practical. What does call mean in our lives today? First, we've got to start here. Following Jesus means this first and foremost:

### **You are called to salvation**

So, when Jesus says, "Follow Me. The first step is that you are following Me into salvation where I become Savior of your life." It is something that He calls all of us to. And salvation is a response, not your idea. So, understand this. In 1 Corinthians 1:9 it says:

"God is faithful, who has," what does it say? "called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14:

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He," say it with me, "called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (NIV)

First and foremost we have to start here. Called by Jesus means that you are called to salvation. There isn't anybody who just woke up one day and decided to become a Christian. It was the Holy Spirit who has been wooing you and pursuing you and speaking into your life bringing you to that conclusion.

In Ephesians, chapter 2 it tells us that prior to Jesus every single one of us were lost, and then it uses this word, dead in sin. We were dead in sin. Dead people don't respond to things. They have to be summoned. And the Holy Spirit summons you and calls you. In other words, you couldn't see it and then you did.

It's why 1 Corinthians 1 says this: The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those of us who are being saved, oh man, it's Good News.

Maybe you have an unsaved family member or friend and they just think all of this is a bunch of nonsense. Or, you read a passage and God really speaks to you through it and then you share it with them and they are like, "I don't get it."



The Bible says that the message of the cross is foolishness to the world. And the Holy Spirit has to give you eyes to see it. So this sense of calling is often referred to as the doctrine of preventient or preceding grace. What that means is that, God through the Holy Spirit is the One who prepares and enables your heart to not only perceive the gospel, but to receive the gospel. And His gracious calling precedes your response. So:

**God's mercy precedes your repentance**

**His favor precedes your performance**

**His love precedes your obedience**

And what this means is that you have tremendous worth in God's sight.

He saved you, so He gets the glory, but you get to share in the rewards!

So, He saved you so that He's the One who gets all of the glory but you get to share in the rewards. This is why, by the way, you should never, ever, ever, ever give up praying for your lost family members or friend.

And you may think, "Oh, man. It would take nothing short of a miracle to get them to Jesus." Yep. It was nothing short of a miracle to get you to Jesus. So, here's what you do. "Oh, man. They are just so hard and so bitter. And they are so smart I can't debate—they know more Bible than I do." Yeah, but they cannot contend with the Holy Spirit. You just sick the Holy Spirit on them. That's what you do. You just pray.

In fact, it is not cruel to pray this prayer, "God, would You please break their heart. Would You please bring them to their knees so that they might see their utter dependence on You." Some of you may be like, "Well, that's mean." No, it's not. Man, it is far better to do that now, for God to break them in the here and now, than for them to face a Christ-less eternity. You pray for their salvation and pray for the Holy Spirit...

Guys, I have had so many stories, I've lost count of people who come to me and they say, "Aaron, you are never going to believe it." And they tell me this conversion story.

Or, I've have interacted with someone in ministry and it did not go well and I'm just like, "Man, I don't know if they will ever come to Jesus. And then two or three years go by and they come back and they are completely, irreducibly changed because the Holy Spirit is the One who pursued them and woke them up.



You are called to a salvation not of your own, so you if want your family member or friend to know Jesus you start praying that the Holy Spirit would start hunting them down.

Now next question. This brings up a common question. Maybe you're wrestling with it or you have in your past or you know somebody who has. How about this?

### **How do I know if I'm really saved?**

How do I know if I'm really called? And if we're being honest, every single one of us have asked that question at least once. First, I just want to go ahead and point out that it is normal to have that question. It's normal. Why? Because you're a human being and of course you are going to have that question.

I think, just my observation, it's easier to accept that God's grace covers other people than me. Isn't that true? I think, for most of us, we get it. We're like, "Yeah, of course God's grace covers them." And I think maybe part of that is because maybe we are wrestling with our own shame or imposter syndrome.

I think the biggest thing is, we know what we've done we don't really know everything they've done. So, I think it's easy to generalize their sin, and get really specific about ours. So, we champion the message of God's grace that it can cover everyone, but then we kind of have just a little bit of a doubt, "God could really cover me." I think we have a tendency to be harder on ourselves just because we know what we've done.

Secondly, let me just say this. If you weren't truly saved then you would never ask that question. If you weren't truly saved, you honestly wouldn't care. So, if you've given your life to Jesus and you, at times, still wonder, "Am I really saved?" That's really a good indication that you are, because if you weren't you wouldn't care. Romans 8:16 says this:

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (NIV)

Hebrews 3:7-8 says:

"So, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...'" (NIV)

Here's maybe a short, little way to say it. If you care, you're called. How about that? And yet, it's important to acknowledge that we all are going to have moments of doubt, because I think that's just being human.



How many of you have ever played that how much do you love me game with little kids? "How much do you love me? Do you love me this much? Do you love me this much?" And that stays with us for the rest of our lives. Doesn't it? That's where the seeds of insecurity come from.

Any of you ever got into... Whenever you started dating your spouse or maybe you're dating somebody now. It's starting to get a little bit serious. And you've gone on three, four, or five dates. And you are like, "Oh, this is more than just like a casual thing. I'm really starting to have feelings for this person."

And you are kind of like, "Who's going to say it first?" You're kind of doing relationship jujitsu, "I don't know. I don't want to be the first one to go because I don't want to say, 'I love you,' and then they go, 'Thanks.'" You don't want to do that.

Or maybe you get two months into the relationship and you are still kind of testing the waters. You're like, "Well, do you really love me? Do you really?" It's normal to ask that question. But, at some point you've got to stop asking it, otherwise you're just going to annoy them.

Listen, man. I think that God knew that we would need reassurance that He has called us, which is why it says this in Romans 10:9:

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead," listen to these four powerful words, "you will be saved." (NIV)

I'm going to say that again. I don't think some of you are receiving it.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (NIV)

Somebody needs to hear this. Believe Him. Believe Him. Listen, man. We all have doubts. And we are all sinners. And we are all still going to mess up, but at a certain point we've got to believe what He says or we are just calling Him a liar.

Secondly: Following Jesus means this:

### **You are called to a vocation**

So let's start with salvation then let's be reassured of our salvation. Now let's move to this next one. We are called to a vocation. I did not say occupation, although it could include that. I said vocation. Here's the definition of a vocation:



A strong inclination to a particular course of action; especially a divine calling or purpose.

And if you are a follower of Jesus you have that. The Holy Spirit has given you that. We oftentimes use a lot of language around spiritual gifts and I think sometimes we miss the forest from the trees on that one. We're talking about, as a believer, what divine course of action has God laid out for you to advance His Kingdom coming? In other words, what role in Jesus' Kingdom are you going to play? He's promised you one. He has one for you. What role are you going to step into?

Part of following Jesus means that His mission becomes your mission in a specific way in which you are helping to advance Jesus' Kingdom coming. Now, it could be serving on a weekend. But, listen. I do not want to reduce it to just that. That's a good place to start. I think you should do that. And, by the way, it doesn't have to be your calling to serve. You can volunteer.

"Hey, would you be willing to serve in the parking lot?"

"That's not my calling."

"Well, I didn't ask that. I just... We need some help there. Alright?"

That's what that means.

Listen. It could be a job, but it doesn't have to be. By the way, it doesn't necessarily need to be your favorite thing or the thing that you are good at. Listen, man. You can step into fulfilling a divine purpose for God's Kingdom even when you are in a season of life where you're just kind of trudging through. Don't believe me? I know some of you don't believe me.

Joseph, in the Old Testament, when he gets beat up, thrown into a well, sold into slavery by his brothers... That's like the worst of the worst of the worst, man. And he is in this foreign country and he goes into slavery. He's accused of advancing (we talked a little bit about that last week) on Potiphar's wife when he was innocent.

And then, because of his good character he gets into a position of power within the kingdom. And when a famine comes upon the land, then God uses him in his position where he actually saved thousands and thousands of people, including the brothers who sold him into slavery.



And so what we're seeing is that he was living out his divine purpose as a slave and in power. His circumstance didn't matter. In fact, when his brothers came back into his life remember what he said to his brothers? When they finally realized that he was their bro that they had sold into slavery they were like, "Oh, no. He can like throw the hammer down on us." Joseph said, "Guys, don't worry about it. What you meant for ill God turned for good."

Can I just say this, man? Discovering God's calling on your life is not something you can just take a test and get a clear answer. I wish we could, but it doesn't work that way. Discovering what this might be, specifically, takes some time.

And I know that most of the time when we say, "Well, what's God's will for my life," here's what we usually mean by that. We usually mean, "What does God specifically want for my life? The specific task. The specific job. The specific person I should be with. The specific car I should drive. I want the specifics."

And God is far more interested in your obeying His general will first. Genuine will, what's that? Well, how about this? Let's start with being obedient. Let's start with the Ten Commandments. Let's start with serving. Let's start with seeking after the Lord and what He's generally told us to do.

Guys, don't expect for God to reveal His specific will for your life if you're violating His general will. So, as you are following His general will, then He begins bringing the specifics into focus. And that takes a little bit of time.

So, here's what you do. You want to know the vocation or the purpose God has for you, you start walking. You just approach a door and you knock on it. And if God opens it, you walk through it in faith and in obedience.

Now, listen. By the way, some doors stay closed and instead of seeing that as a rejection, see that as direction. Guys, there are some doors that I wanted to go through so badly and God kept them shut and I was mad at Him for it. And as I look back with a little bit of wisdom and retrospect, I'm like, "God, thank You so much that You kept that door shut because that would have taken me off course."

And you walk your way into it as you follow Him. And you're not going to get there overnight. You're just not.

You know, I felt called by God to be a pastor and a preacher the age of 18. I didn't have a clue for what that meant. But I had this vision in my head and it was like, "God, I want to be used by you in a significant way in this generation to advance Your Kingdom. But I don't know exactly how to get there, what that looks like."

graduated from Bible College and I had zero offers. And I was preaching at a little church of about 12 people on the weekend. They paid me seventy-five dollars a weekend. And I worked during the week on a farm, which I had no business doing. That's another sermon.

And I remember being so frustrated Monday through Friday. I was like, "God, how am I going to get from here to where it is you've called me? Did I miss my call? I don't understand." And at that time I had read that in order to become a good preacher you've got to have at least a minimum of 300 reps in of preaching. I am like, "Where am I going to get the reps in if I'm only preaching once a weekend to 12 people?"

One of my jobs on the farm is I had one of those flatbed trucks that had I called it hay-on. This is why I actually shouldn't be working on a farm. And so they had this hay bale on the back... Somebody is going to email me and tell me what it is later. I don't care. And I pulled into this field and all of the cows would come running because they knew it was feeding time. And I'd take it and I would lower the hay bale down. And I cut the string off.

Then I would jump up on that flatbed truck because I had a captive audience. There were 100 cattle all around. Literally, I would preach sermons. That's how I got my reps in. I don't know why you are clapping at that. No one got saved. They were not even paying attention. Right? But what I was doing is I was trying to get reps in.

Here's my point, guys. Some of you are frustrated right now. Maybe you're in your 20s and you are like, "Man, I feel God is calling me to this lofty thing. But I'm not getting a job. And I stop coming. I told my pastor what I felt called to do and he kind of brushed me off."

Listen, man. You don't discover it by standing still. You start moving. You just be like, "God, what's the next thing?"

"Here's a mop."

"Okay, I'll take the mop."

"We need you to serve over here." "You need to go over there."

You don't discover it by standing still. You just start walking because entitlement will take you off track. In Isaiah, chapter 30 it says:

"Whether you turn to the right or to the left," in other words, you can choose, "your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'" Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)



Notice Jesus called these guys but He didn't hand out any job descriptions for them. He didn't say, "James, I want you to keep the books. John, if you could really make sure transportation is..." He didn't do that. He just said, "Guys, I want you to follow Me."

And dropping your nets requires a level even deeper than that. Look with me at verse 19. It says:

"A little farther up the shore," so, this is the competition right up the street, "Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John," John would be the guy who wrote the gospel of John much, much later, "in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once," once again Mark's favorite phrase, "and they also followed him, leaving,"

...leaving, leaving, leaving, leaving, leaving—I just wanted to stress that word in case you didn't notice.

"their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men." (NLT)

This was the fishing business right down the street. So, these boys go from being the competition to team King Jesus. And we can also assume that their fishing enterprise was a really successful one because their father/boss, Zebedee, had hired men. And that wasn't very common in that day. So, he'd kind of built up his business and it was very successful.

And I read this and I'm like, "Poor Zeb." So much for his succession and retirement plan. His boys are just walking off the job site. And they leave him there with the nets and the boats. They were set to inherit this lucrative family business and they chose to walk away from it. Just right then and there.

Seems kind of irresponsible, don't you think? I would think if Jesus were to say, "Hey, would you follow Me." They'd be like, "Hey, that's a great idea, Jesus. Would you give us a couple of months to wrap things up first? Tie off the boat. Clean and go and sell the existing fish that we've got at market. Let's see if we've got a good buyer to buy the fishing business. We're going to put out a social media post and talk about life transitions. After a lot of prayerful consideration and thoughtful discussion we've decided to take our talents to South Galilee."

But they didn't do any of that. They just immediately dropped the nets. They leave their dad right there in the water, get out of the boat while the boats were still in the water, and followed after Jesus. Guys, they woke up as fishermen that morning and they went to bed as fishers of men.



And here's what we learn:

### **You are called to follow Jesus immediately**

You are called to follow Jesus—Mark's favorite word—immediately. Immediately, man. What are you talking about? Okay, if He calls you to salvation, do it immediately. If He's calling you to a Kingdom purpose, do it immediately. "Well, I don't know what it is."

Doesn't matter. Just start moving. Just start walking, man. Because what happens is that through your obedience He empowers you and He opens the right doors for whatever is next. If Jesus is Lord and Savior, then His calling requires immediate response. Why? Because He is a King. He's a King. And a King has summoned you. He's not negotiating with you.

It's like the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts, chapter 8. He's reading Isaiah. He doesn't understand what he is reading. And the Holy Spirit sends Philip to him. And he's like, "I don't understand what I'm reading." And I love what it says. Philip starts with that very passage and he explains the Good News.

And you know the Ethiopian eunuch's response? "Well, let me sign up for Rooted first and then I'll go all the way through Rooted and then I'll do it." Or, "Hey, let me go back and talk to my family first and discuss things with them and we'll set a date." No. He goes, "Look. There is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?" It was immediate.

The Greek word in verse 20 is *eutheós* and it means at once, immediately, right away. In other words, "There is nothing more important than the call of the King right now in my life."

I'm kind of reminded of something that Matthew records in chapter 8 of his gospel. One of the teachers of religious law told Jesus that he would follow him wherever He would go. Wow! And then in verse 21 it says this:

"Another of his disciples," who must have been listening in on this, "said, 'Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.'"

Honestly, kind of sounds like a reasonable request.

"But Jesus told him, 'Follow me now.'" (NLT)



Wow. Why do you think Jesus did that? Because He was insensitive? I don't think so. I think Jesus told him, "Follow Me now," for maybe a couple of reasons. Number one: Life is so short. You just are not guaranteed another moment in time. Do it now. I think the other reason is that I think that if He were to let this guy go, he would have gone home, he would have buried his father, and then maybe talked himself out of it, or maybe gotten distracted by something else.

See, Jesus is like, "Don't kick the can down the road on this." If the Holy Spirit is prompting you then respond now. If Jesus is calling you, you go all in the right way right away. And God won't force you. He'll prompt you.

The Bible says that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. What that means is that every single one of us will bow our knees to the King and confess that He is Lord. The question is will you do it now or then? And it is much better to do it now. Will you follow Him? Don't just believe in Him. Make Him Lord of your life by following after Him.

Now, we're going to see next week that even the demons believe in Jesus, but that's not necessarily what He's asking. He's asking for full devotion, which is not what they are giving Him. They are not following Him.

So, can I just ask you today:

### **What "nets" are you holding on to?**

What nets, so to speak, are you holding on to? What nets are you holding on to? Now, in the passage it's literal. For you and me it's figurative. The title of this message is Drop Your Nets. So, I want to ask yourself, "What nets am I holding onto?" And guys, it could be anything.

In fact, by the way, it could be good things, just not the best things. It's something that is actually keeping you from following after Jesus. Maybe it is a relationship. Maybe it's a job. Maybe it's a hobby. Maybe it's money. Maybe it's your reputation. It could be anything? In fact, here's another word for it: idol. It's an idol that is actually keeping you from Him. And it could be someone.

It's plain to see in the text that they dropped their literal nets, but they also walked away from their dad and his business. And I would imagine that that would have been difficult. We don't know a lot about it. We don't know if Zebedee was immediately supportive. I think eventually he was. I'll tell you why in a minute. Maybe he was a bit resistant then. Or maybe he gave them a little bit of grief, or maybe it caused some hard feelings. We don't really know but they kind of risked that in the here and there. And oftentimes our nets are the people we love the most, who share our last name.



And Jesus often said shocking things. One of the ones that I think makes the top three, if not the very top of the list, is something that he said in Luke 12:51-53. If you've never read this before and if I wasn't telling you that this is Jesus saying it, you probably wouldn't guess that it is Jesus saying it. But Jesus said this:

"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth?" And most of us would go, "Yes." And He goes, "No, I tell you, but division." Wow. What did He mean? He goes, "From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (NIV)

Sounds like Christmas! Now you read that man, and you've got to go, "What? What in the world? Jesus why in the world would You want division?" Let's unpack this. Becoming a follower of Jesus means a transformation of your identity. It is the most important thing about you. That's what Lordship is. You are no longer Lord. He is Lord over your desires, your longings, your behaviors, and your attractions.

And, by the way, this is a great trade. You lose nothing because He wants the best for you. And He created you. And He designed you. That's what Lordship means. I've used the analogy around here a lot before for those of you who have been in our church. It's that if Jesus enters into your life, think about it like this.

He shows up on the front door of your life with His bags and you let him in. And He walks into your house, that's what this is, the temple of the Lord. And you are like, "Jesus, come on in. I've got a room ready for you right over here. There are snacks in the kitchen." And He goes, "What about the room at the end of the hallway there where the yellow police tape is?"

"Oh, don't go in there. That's mine. I'd rather You..." "You can have every other room in the house, Jesus, but You can't have the money room." "You can have every other room in the house, Jesus, but stay out of the sex room." "You can have every other room in the house, but please just stay out of my weekend hobby room, Jesus. These are mine." That's not what Lordship means. Listen. Lordship means that you identify fully... We talk a lot about identity now in our culture. Your identity is now found in Him, no longer your sin.



So, here's where oftentimes family comes in and what I think Jesus is driving at in Luke 12 is if your lost family member: it could be a child, could be a parent, could be extended family chooses to identify with their sin, and all of a sudden you find yourself in the middle of it, then you will either compromise, because you think that's the only way you can love them—it's by accepting or affirming their sin, particularly sexual sin. There is a reason why Jesus says this in Luke 12 so that we wouldn't be caught off guard when it happens.

And, by the way, can I just say this to you right now? I get it, man. You love your kids. You love your parents. You love your extended family. You want to keep the relationship and be in their life. And you are thinking, "Man, if I choose to stand on God's Word then my child might reject me because I'm not affirming of their lifestyle or behavior. So, to avoid the division you settle for a false peace. And it is fabricated unity. And fabricated unity means disobedience to Jesus."

Can I say this as brokenheartedly as I can but as plain as I can:

### **You can't love your family well until you love Jesus more**

You have to make the decision to put the Lordship of Christ first and then pray for the deliverance and the salvation of your child. Or, you compromise God's Word so you don't have to confront sin or risk the relationship.

Here's what this looks like. You are broken hearted but you are clear. And you say, "Man, I love you but I don't accept your sin. I love you but I won't affirm all of your choices. I love you but I know it's not God's best for you. I will always be here for you."

Listen. For those of you who haven't taken a breath in the last 30 seconds, what happens next isn't up to you. God loves them more than you do anyway. And if they curse you out. If they slam the door. If you think you're never going to see your grandkids ever again, then you pray like crazy that the Holy Spirit hunts them down.

Zeb likely had a lot of emotions that day. You know what I think? I think eventually he became the proudest dad ever. You want to know why I think that? It's because his son, John, who wrote the gospel of John, also 1, 2, and 3 John, says this is 3 John, chapter 1, verse 4—it's a tiny little verse and it's easy to miss where John writes these words:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4 (NIV)



Where do you think he got that? I think he got it from his dad, Zebedee who eventually came around him and blessed him and said, "Hey, I'm glad you walked away from the family business so that you could follow Jesus."

Some of you, man, that pain is real because right now you are in the thick of it. It is not hypothetical. It's real life. And I think Jesus was thinking of you when he said these words in Matthew, 19, verse 29. He says:

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." (NIV)

Listen, man. I know you loved your kids, but they are God's kids before they are your kids. And you are not going to do them any favors if you just affirm the thing that is actually keeping them from salvation in Jesus. And it just might be that your broken-hearted boldness is what God uses to set them free rather than your agreement with all of their decisions.

So, let me end with just these three questions right now, just a little bit of time to do a little bit of business with God:

### **What net is God calling you to drop?**

I don't know what that looks like, man. Maybe that's a vocation change, an occupation change. Maybe it's the ending of a relationship, the starting of a relationship. Maybe it's a decision to do something different financially. I don't know. What is a net that God is calling you to drop?

Number two:

### **What is God calling you to do?**

What is God calling you to do that you've been avoiding? You've been kicking the can down the road and you are like, "You know what? Eventually I'll get to that, but not right now." You need to do it immediately. What is it that God is calling you that's you've been avoiding Him in?

The third thing:

### **What family member needs to know Jesus?**

What family member needs to know Jesus? And you fall on your face and ask the Holy Spirit to pursue them with everything that He's got so that they might have eyes to see the King that they've been rejecting.



So, here's what I want to ask us to do. I just want to ask us to take a few moments of reflection and silence. I'm going to pray. But if you need somebody to pray with, if you need to respond in some way, maybe to talk with somebody after the service, maybe weep with somebody over a family member or maybe a decision that you are needing to make or you need clarity over what it is that God is calling you to do, you can do that and we want to invite you to come.

Right now I just want to take a few moments to allow the Holy Spirit to fall freshly over this room or maybe for those of you who are watching online wherever you may be that you would just take a few moments and simply just say this, "Holy Spirit, Your servant is listening. Speak. What nets have I been holding onto with a death grip because it's my security, it's my identity. It's the thing that, if I'm being honest, I find more joy in than anything else."

And maybe the King, with all of His authority is summoning you to let it go because He's got something better for you that you can't grab a hold on because your hands are still full of your nets.

So, Father, would You please move in our lives? Would You please do a miracle to help us see You for who You are? That You are not just a moral teacher. That You are not just an inspiration for us to follow. You are God in the flesh. A King with a Kingdom who is coming with urgency and power and grace.

So, Father, would You please raise us up as ambassadors of that Kingdom to live for You. Help us to drop our nets so that we can fully follow You into a life of devotion. You are not calling us into something weird. You are calling us into something real. So, would You please do what only You can. We ask this right now in the power of Jesus' name. And everybody says: Amen and Amen.

Hey, at this time would you stand to your feet. You can respond in prayer. But let's respond together in worship.

