

Mark 1:16-20

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

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. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."^[a] 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.

1) Introduction - What is your purpose?

Prior to Bishop Warner's sermon, how would you have answered this question? Did Bishop Warner's sermon change or inform or sharpen your perspective on your answer to this question?

2) Mark 1:16-20 - Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Bishop Warner stated this brief passage provides a three-fold answer to the question, "What is our - those who profess in Jesus - purpose?" How does this passage help us answer that question?

Bishop Warner summarized the three-fold answer this way, "Follow, be formed, and fulfill Jesus' purpose." What is your response? Does this resonate with you?

3) Mark 1:17 - Follow me . . .

Just as Jesus moved toward Simon, Andrew, James, and John, he moved toward us long before we professed faith in him. He moved toward us, sought us, and revealed himself to us. He demonstrated what Jamie Brown calls "initiating grace." Can you recall or see this in your own life? The ways - both little and large - the Lord was moving toward you? Calling you to himself?

Of course, Jesus' invitation, "Follow me," is ongoing. Do you find there are ways you remain sensitive to his voice? His invitation? And obedient?

4) Mark 1:17 - . . . and I will make you become

This is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, in our lives. He is in us. He is with us. And he is forming us into the likeness of Jesus. See 2 Corinthians 3:18. When you consider this, what is your response? "Ho-hum. Heard it before," or "Yeah, but I need to work at becoming a better person," or "This is amazing! Christ in me is my hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)?"

What is a key indicator of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life? (Not sure of the answer? See John 13:34-35, Galatians 5:22-23, and 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 for starters!)

5) Mark 1:17 - . . . fishers of men.

Do you see yourself as a member of a people whose purpose is to put God on display? To "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9)? See Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica. Look at 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8. For what does Paul commend the church? (See 1 Thessalonians 1:3).

How did the Thessalonians receive the Gospel? (See 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6.)

And what was the outcome? (See 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

- 6) Community - What is the importance of being an active part of an authentic, faith-filled, loving, and reconciling community to fulfilling your - our - purpose? Bishop Warner said, "We actually need each other!" Why?

A Collect for A Spirit of Evangelism

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.