



*‘Now!’ Sermon Series*

Sermon #4

Sunday, April 28th, 2024

*‘The Right Formula for Kingdom Building Ministry!’*

*Mark 1:14-20*

*Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:*

- Last Sunday in our ‘NOW’ sermon series, we looked at Mark 1:9-13.
  - I preached a message entitled *‘Follow the Leader!’* as we looked at *Mark 1:9-13*.
- I asked the question: *How does Mark describe to us the two things that Jesus did before beginning His public ministry, and how we are to follow Him as our Leader?*
  - **Point 1: *Follow Jesus in Baptism. (V. 9-11)***
  - **Point 2: *Follow Jesus in Battling Temptation. (V. 12-13)***

- Based on last Sunday’s message, have you seen and realized the importance of following Jesus as our leader on a daily basis?

*‘The Right Formula for Kingdom Building Ministry!’*

*Mark 1:14-20*

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*We can learn from Christ Jesus what the right formula for a Kingdom Building Ministry is by teaching the right message, having ready members on our team, and knowing that the real Messiah must be trusted.*

**Intro:**

- ***Have you ever wondered why your relationship with Christ may be stagnant?***
  - *Or maybe you’ve wondered why you aren’t as bold in your faith as others are?*
  - Or maybe, you’ve wondered why you aren’t leading others to Christ regularly?
- ***In today’s world, there seems to be a formula for everything.***
  - There’s a formula for math equations, chemistry equations and all kinds of different things.
  - When cooking, some will use a cookbook in order to get the right recipe or ‘formula’ for something that they are wanting to bake.
  - *Anything to do with technology, usually comes with steps or a ‘formula’ guiding one how to*

*accomplish whatever it is they are wanting to achieve.*

- *In the Christian life, there are often different books, videos and articles that explain different formulas for different topics.*
  - There are great books on how to raise a Godly family, how to have a Godly marriage, how to effectively win souls for Christ and there's even multiple editions of a Minister's manual.
    - *While these strong Christian resources and the formulas that they contain can often be helpful and God can certainly use them, the best formula for living a God Glorifying life, is in His Word.*
- This morning we have come to a passage of scripture describing our Lord starting His ministry.
  - *Before Mark gets into all the different things that Jesus did and accomplished during His ministry on earth, He gives us a few details on how Jesus started.*
    - *What I believe we find here in these verses this morning, is a great depiction of how Jesus started His ministry on earth.*
- Matthew 4:17-22 and Luke 4:14-15 all describe this same thing.
  - *What I believe we find in Mark's account this morning, is the right formula that each of us*

*can apply to our lives, to have a ministry that impacts others for Christ and Glorifies God!*

*\*Read Mark 1:14-20\**

### **Question to Ask:**

*How does the initial start of Jesus' ministry show us the right formula for a Kingdom building ministry that Glorifies God?*

### **Point 1: *The Right Message being Taught. (V. 14-15)***

- So, Jesus was baptized by His cousin John, went through temptation in the wilderness, and now He was beginning His ministry.
  - *This is the beginning of the road to the Cross journey that Jesus was on.*
- Before we look at and study the two ways that Jesus was teaching the right message even from the start of His ministry, I think we need to pay special attention to the first part of verse 14.
  - 'Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee,' Mark 1:14a
  - *From the perspective of of the early Church, both Acts 1:22 and Acts 10:37 show us that the Baptism of Jesus and the arrest of John were milestones to the early Church that officially 'commenced' Jesus' public ministry.*
    - JM states *'Prior to that, John was still baptizing in the Jordan and Jesus was ministering in Judea, so their two ministries overlapped. After John's*

*arrest, Jesus returned to Galilee for extensive ministry there.'*

- Galilee was the northern region of the land of Israel, and to many Jews in the first century, Galilee was thought of as the outskirts. A less desirable place than Jerusalem.
- **\*Word Study\***
  - The ESV translation uses the word 'arrested' and the NIV says 'put in prison'.
  - **The Greek Word that is used here is *Paradidomi* (παραδοθῆναι), which actually means to hand over.**
    - So, in the greek text arrest is not explicitly mentioned, although we know that later in Mark 6:14-29, Mark is going to explain what happened to John the Baptist.
    - That when he spoke against the sexual immoral lifestyle of Herod, he was arrested, and his head was later put on a platter.
- **Scholar James Edwards speaks to the role that this particular greek word plays in Mark's Gospel 'The same word will be used of Jesus 'handing over' as the Son of Man in Mark 9:31 and Mark 10:33 as well as 8 times in Mark 14-15 and of Christian believers.'**

■ *I believe that Mark carefully uses this word throughout His Gospel to show that the fate of God's people are in His hands, even when it doesn't seem that way.*

- We know that John has been arrested, later, Mark will tell us that he died.
  - **But, the meat of these verses show us that Jesus started His ministry with the right formula in mind.**
- Preaching the right truth about the Gospel!
  - I believe there are **2** ways in these verses that we can make sure that the right message is being taught.
- **Proclaim the Good News (εὐαγγέλιον). (V. 14)**
  - 'Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,' Mark 1:14
  - **\*Word Study\***
    - The word 'Gospel' comes from the Greek word **Euangelion** (εὐαγγέλιον) **and as we've studied before, it literally means 'good news'.**
  - **There is no possibility to have a good ministry that does not include the proclamation of the good news.**
    - Jesus goes into Galilee and proclaims the good news that comes from His Father.

- **What is this good news? The fact that the Messiah had come.**
  - I believe it's interesting that Mark uses this phrase in the greek text that is translated to 'the good news of God'.
    - **This is the only time that Mark uses it in his Gospel. It is an expression that sounds quite similar to the Apostle Paul who used it often in Romans 1:1, 15:16, 2nd Corinthians 11:7, and 1 Thessalonians 2:2.**
      - I believe that this phrase is also an indication that this is the summation of Jesus teaching ministry that will unfold in Mark's Gospel.
  - **If you want to have a Kingdom Building ministry, proclaiming the GOOD NEWS is a non-negotiable.**
- **Preserve the Good News. (V. 15)**
  - 'and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;[a] repent and believe in the gospel.'" Mark 1:15
  - **In today's culture and society, even in Christian circles, just like first century Judaism, people try to promote a Jesus + theology.**
    - As I've stated before, I believe strongly in a Jesus period theology.
- Before we look at preserving and teaching the good news as Jesus taught it, we need to look at the phrase Jesus said that has caused much controversy among scholars for many years **'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.'**
  - While there is much debate on what this means, let's take it phrase by phrase.
- When Jesus says the time is fulfilled, I believe that **Jesus is proclaiming that the He is the one that John said would come in Mark 1:7.**
  - This is a definitive time in the life of Jesus where this ministry that will turn the Galilean region and the world upside down, begins.
- Dr. Daniel Aiken said **'The 'time' is a decisive and critical moment in history. Now begins 'the Great Galilean Ministry,' which will last for one and a half years.'**
  - Jesus is stating that He is the fulfillment of this.
- The other phrase, **'and the Kingdom of God is at hand'** is the one that is often created questions in the theological community.
- The phrase **'Kingdom of God'** occurs 14 total times in Mark's Gospel.
  - Some believe that Jesus had in mind a future cosmic kingdom to come, I believe personally that the Kingdom of

God had drawn near with the appearance of God in human flesh through Jesus Christ.

- **Scholar James A. Brooks said 'The expression refers to the Kingly rule, the reign, the dominion, the sovereignty of God in the hearts of people.'**
  - The Kingdom of God that we are to be about building and progressing across the world is not about us. But about Jesus who is our King now and King that is coming for us!
- **With the appearance and start of the Messiah's ministry, the Kingdom of God had certainly drawn near.**
  - So because of this, how should we respond?
- Jesus gives us two things that are paramount to faith in Him, and these are things that we must preserve about the Gospel, because sometimes today they are left out.
  - **Repentance.**
    - Turning from sin.
  - **Belief in the Gospel.**
    - The Good news that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the Cross for our sins.
- When we confront people with the reality of the Kingdom of God, they can repent and turn from

sin, or they can turn away from God completely. The choice is up to them.

- **The message of Jesus' preaching ministry emphasized the Kingdom, Repentance and Belief.**
  - **Our ministries should reflect the same thing.**
- In preserving the good news, we don't make the Kingdom of God about us, we make it about Jesus. We don't make repentance about what we have done, but what God has done for us.
  - **The right message can be taught in our own personal ministry by remembering to proclaim the good news, and preserve what the Good news is that Jesus taught.**

**Point 2: The Ready Members on your Team. (V. 16, 18-20)**

- If we want our ministry to reach those around us for Christ, we cannot do it by ourselves.
  - **We must allow like minded people to be on our team.**
    - Jesus gave us this great example here in our text today as He called His first disciples. Remember, Jesus allowed others to be a part of His ministry. Not because He needed them, but because they needed Him.

- *While the message that we preach is so important, we must have the right people surrounding us that will embody that message.*
  - If not, it's an odd paradox.
  - You want to surround yourself with other believers that have the same goal, mindset, and ambition as you do when it comes to building the Kingdom of God.
- *According to John 1:35-49, it seems that Jesus had previously met these two sets of brothers that Mark tells us Jesus called to be His disciples.*
  - All 4 of these first disciples that Jesus calls were fishermen, but as we are going to see, Jesus calls them to a new vocation.
  - *In Galilee at this time, fishing was one of the main occupations in the Sea of Galilee region.*
    - Scholar James Edwards notes that there were 16 total ports on the lake.
- *I believe there are 2 things that Jesus shows us about how He selected ready members to be on His team of disciples.*
- **Ordinary People. (V. 16, 19)**
  - '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.'  
Mark 1:16

- '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.' Mark 1:19
- *Notice that Jesus did not go out and select the most educated or most popular people in the community.*
  - Jesus chose to do life and begin His ministry with the ordinary.
  - *With Jesus' choice to do this, I believe He shows us that He can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things for Him and for His Glory.*
- In verse 16, Simon is who we know as Simon Peter.
  - *As mentioned in our overview sermon, it is believed that Peter was the source for most of Mark's Gospel. Which could be why Mark makes more reference to Peter than to any other disciple in His Gospel.*
- As you seek to do ministry with those around you, don't look for the most attractive people.
  - *Don't look for the people that are going to make you 'look the best'.*
    - Don't even look for people that have high paying jobs or fancy degrees.

- **Look for ordinary people who love Jesus in an unordinary way.**
  - Now I do think it's important to note that while these men were ordinary, they were also successful in what they did.
  - *They led successful fishing businesses which would have been hard to walk away from.*
    - *When it comes to the opportunity to be a part of building God's Kingdom, you will miss out on things of the world. But, it's worth it.*
- **Luke 5:10**, tells us that these 2 brothers, 4 men, ran a successful fishing business together.
  - 'and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."'
- **Luke 4:38** tells us that Peter owned his own home in the city of Capernaum.
  - 'And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf.'
- **John 18:15** tells us that John was a well-known citizen to the high priest at that time.
  - 'Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.'
- *What Jesus says to them in verse 17 is what Jesus is also telling us when it comes to our own ministries, not only were these pretty regular and ordinary guys, they showed unheard of obedience.*
- **Obedience. (V. 18, 20)**
  - 'And immediately they left their nets and followed him.' Mark 1:18
  - 'And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.' Mark 1:20
  - **We will study verse 17 in depth in just a moment, but here's what Jesus said to these men in verse 17 that led to their responses in verses 18 & 20.**
    - 'And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."'
  - *In verse 18 and in verse 20, we see that Mark uses what seems to be his favorite word, 'Immediately'.*
    - There is no hesitation for these men to leave their wealthy businesses and families, to serve King Jesus.

- *If you are truly in love with Jesus Christ and enamored with the thought and lifestyle of obedience to Him, you will want to enlist others to come alongside with you.*
  - When it comes to building the kingdom of God, we weren't meant to do it alone.
    - *While Jesus could have not it by Himself, you and I can't do it by ourselves.*
    - *Which is why the Lord has placed people in our lives to do life and ministry with us.*
- *Scholar Kent Hughes said 'In these few lines we have one of the most famous acts of obedience in history. Christ came with a radical message and then a radical call, and these four responded in radical obedience.'*
  - Are you as obedient to Christ's command as these four?
  - Do you have friends in your circle that want to run the Christian race with you because they see how hard you run and how obedient you are to Christ on a daily basis?
- *The lives of these fishermen were radically changing to preachers.*
  - If you've truly had an encounter with Jesus, than your life will change as well. If you are wondering, what has Christ

commanded that I do? Don't forget about the mission that Christ has given each of us who claim Him as Lord and Savior.

- 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' Matthew 28:19-20
  - *Surround yourself with ready Christ followers on your team!*

**Point 3: *The Real Messiah must be Trusted. (V. 17)***

- So many things in our world that people choose to follow other than Jesus. But what Jesus tells His disciples in verse 17, is an indication to all of us, that the Real Messiah, Jesus Christ can and must be trusted.
  - *'And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Mark 1:17*
- *What we need to see clearly here in the text is that Jesus does not ask them to come, He commands them to Follow Him.*
  - Once you commit your life to Christ it is no longer a wishy washy decision you make. IF you are going to follow Jesus or not, if you are truly a follower of Christ, you will Follow Him.



- *In Mark's Gospel, following Jesus is a common concept and it is one that portrays discipleship.*
    - *The more that we follow after Jesus, the more that we become more like Him.*
      - In order to follow Him, we must be like the disciples that Jesus called here. We can't hesitate. We can't question, we must fully trust Jesus by the way we live our lives.
    - I believe there are **2** things in verse 17 that show us how the Messiah can fully be trusted.
- *Stay Close. (V. 17a)*
  - 'And Jesus said to them, "Follow me,'
  - If you want to trust in Jesus, you will stay close to Him by following Him.
  - *Jesus' call to the disciples does support His authority.*
    - *Because of the authority that Jesus has, it demands a response from us.*
  - Scholar Echard Shanabel said *'It is only God who can command people to leave their profession with which they earn their livelihood in order to be devoted to His service.'*
    - *Whatever God may lead and command you to do, are you willing to drop all that you have and follow after Him? To stay close to Him?*

- *Sent Out. (V. 17b)*
  - 'and I will make you become fishers of men.'
  - Jesus was taking fishermen, and was making them into Preachers of His Word.
    - *No longer would these men men be casting nets for fish, but they would be trained to preach the Gospel for the purpose of saving sinners.*
  - These men would be prepared by Jesus, the greatest teacher of all time.
    - *I think it's important to note that in the greek text, Jesus says 'I shall make you become fishers of men', so the process of becoming disciples of Jesus is something that will not be an overnight process for the disciples.*
      - But it is one that Jesus would see them through.
  - *Remember that if we are going to be committed to building the Kingdom of God we've got to stay close to Him, and be willing to be sent out by Him.*

#### Conclusion:

- Maybe you are here this morning and you've been a believer in Christ for a long time.
  - *You've sat in the pews, read your Bible, maybe even served in the Church.*

- ***But when was the last time that you focused on the right formula for accomplishing a Kingdom Building ministry in your life?***
  - No matter what age you are today, or where you are in your walk with Christ, we can all learn from how Jesus started His ministry.
  - ***We can use the same Formula that Jesus did.***
    - ***Point 1: The Right Message being Taught. (V. 14-15)***
    - ***Point 2: The Ready Members on your Team. (V. 16, 18-20)***
    - ***Point 3: The Real Messiah must be Trusted. (V. 17)***
  - What changes do you need to make this morning, so that you get far away from just going through the motions of modern day Christianity, and apply what it really means to be and have a ministry that builds up the Kingdom of God.