

Sermon Series—**The Gospel of Mark**

Discussion Questions

The Calling of the First Disciples (Mark 1:14-20)

Week of: January 7th – 13th

1. Why do you think that Mark omits the Nativity story from his Gospel? What is his purpose statement found in Mark 1:1? How does this purpose statement shape the way we read all of the stories about Jesus in Mark?
2. Why does Mark include the story of John the Baptist?
3. What is the significance of the fact that in Mark 1:9-13 the Spirit that descended on Jesus like a dove after His baptism was the same Spirit that sent Him into the wilderness to be tempted. Why would Mark have written this in his Gospel?
4. Chapter one begins what is common for Mark. Mark's Gospel tells more of Jesus' healing stories than any other Gospel. (1:24-28; 29-34; 40-45) Based on the purpose statement of Mark in 1:1 why do you think he would include all of these healing stories.
5. Verse 18 and 20 of chapter one give us an indication as to the length of time that it took the disciples to decide to follow Christ. What do we learn about the length of time it took them to decide to follow Christ?
6. What were some of the decision making factors that they possibly considered before they followed Christ? What things listed in 1:14-20, would they leave behind if they followed Christ?
7. Do you think that the men in verses 14-20 knew everything there was to know about Jesus before they decided to follow Him? Do you think that they considered themselves to be godly men before they decided to follow Him? Explain your answer.
8. How come Jesus didn't tell these fishermen that they needed to just believe that he was the Messiah, and then leave them to continue to live their own lives? What is the significance of Him saying, "Follow me?"
9. What application do verses 14-20 have for people that claim to already be following Christ?