

February 5th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 4)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing you for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

When you say you “follow” something, what does that mean? Are you an extremist, and know anything and everything about what you follow? Or would you define yourself as a casual follower? Obviously it depends on what you're talking about specifically, but there are levels of what it means to follow something.

This leads us into the conversation of what Jesus meant when he said, “follow me.”

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 1:16-20. One of the first things we see Jesus do in this passage is notice Peter and Andrew and call them. Why is it significant that Jesus “sees” both of them? Pastor Jeff said, “Jesus sees you in your sin, brokenness, imperfections and is still calling you.” How do you relate to that statement? How do you think your own sin and imperfections cloud Jesus' calling in your life?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:27 to help you understand Jesus' call to use you in the midst of imperfection.

Question 2: Read Mark 1:16-17. Once Jesus calls his disciples, He tells them that they will be experience a transformation. Jesus says to them, “I will make you.” This is crucial to understand that the life of a Christian is about a transformation now and an ongoing transformation. The transformation now is a change in your identity – righteous identity.

Read 1 John 3:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:21

The second transformation is an ongoing process of becoming more like the image of Jesus – sanctification!

Read Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:6

Talk about how these two things are different and important!

Question 3: Read Mark 1:16-20. Pastor Jeff said the statement, “I am no longer a baseball player who happens to follow Jesus, I am a Christ-follower who happens to play baseball.” Why do you think this distinction needs to be made? What does it mean? Have you ever made that distinction in your own life as it relates to following Jesus?

Read Philippians 3:7-11

Question 4: Read Mark 1:19-20. Jesus shows that following Him requires a commitment. These men were called and immediately dropped their nets, left their father, and followed Jesus. At first glance, this seems extreme. Why would these men leave their families, the family business, their homes? Is it possible that God is calling you to follow him somewhere that seems extreme? Are there different “levels” of following Jesus?

Jesus gives the command to everyone who follows Him, “to become fishers of people.” How is God calling you to do that where you are today?

Taking it Home

Reflect on these application questions:

1. Do I believe in Jesus?
2. Am I becoming like Jesus?
3. Am I behaving like Jesus?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?