

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of October 1, 2023

Sermon Series: *Called*

This four-week series is an overview of what it looks like to live and serve as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Week one is focused on answering the call of Jesus to be His disciple. The remaining three weeks will focus on the four essentials of discipleship.

SHARE YOUR STORY IN YOUR GROUP

What drew you to Jesus? When did you decide to believe in Jesus? What was involved?

Some of you have probably shared your stories in the past. Perhaps have a few people share their story and the rest share what drew you to Jesus.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE CALL OF JESUS

Read the following Scriptures and consider the questions below.

Each of the first four books of the New Testament include early 'encounters' with Jesus and His soon-to-be disciples. What do you observe from each of these encounters?

Each gospel begins at a different place. However, notice that all of them focus to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior.

- Matthew 3:11-17; 4:12-13,17-23
- Luke 3:3-6, 16; 4:14-31-39; 5:1-11
- John 1:15-16; 34-51

Let's look further into the early encounters in "Mark" 1. (NIV) Read the following excerpt.

The beginning of **the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God**,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way" —

³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. . . . ⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "**You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.**" . . .

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "**The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!**"

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Questions:

- According to verse one, what is the good news about? **The good news is about Jesus. Specifically, who He is, why He came, what, He did, and what this means for us.**
- What was the message of John the Baptist? (7-8) Why is this significant? **John was (1) fulfilling prophecy (Malachi), (2) declaring something about the identity and stature of Jesus, and (3) that He would baptize (fill, engulf) us with the Holy Spirit. He is able to cause God to indwell.**

What was Jesus’ message? (14-15) **“The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” It involved a promise of God that was being fulfilled, that it was associated with Him / His coming, and that are need is to repent and believe the good news that came with Jesus.**

- What was the call from Jesus? (17, 20) **He called /calls them to follow Him as leader, called them into a relationship (follow Me), and called them into a mission.**
- How did they respond? **They left their place of earning to follow Him.**

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 and consider the questions below.

⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we **preached the gospel** of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² **encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.**

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, **when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.**

According to this passage, what is involved in answering the “call” of God?

- **He will change how we live.**
- **It will be worthy of God.**
- **We are called into His kingdom and glory.**
- **What we believed in the gospel was the actual word of God.**
- **This word of God will be at work within all who believe.**

What is promised to those who answer the “call?”

- **His kingdom and glory**

In Acts 2, we read the message that Peter preached after Jesus had risen from the dead and the Holy Spirit had come to dwell in believers.

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand

³⁵ until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet.”^[1]

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

What was Peter’s call? (38)

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

What is promised to those who answer the call? (38-39)

And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What is Jesus’ calling us to in Mark 1:17?

According to Acts 2 and 1 Thessalonians 2:12, answering the “call” comes with promises. What do these promises tell us about God’s calling on our lives? What do these promises tell us about God’s desires and character?

What is asked of those who answer the call of Jesus/God?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

If you are not sure that you have answered the call of Jesus, we would be glad to meet with you. You can email Pastor Steve at sspringsted@trinityonline.org or call him at 909-335-7333, x1150.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Please pray for the many people listed on the HG notes.
- Please pray for our Young Adults group, Pastor Jerrod, and the mission to make disciples.
- Please pray for the Elders as they love and serve our church family.