

Follow Me | Mark 1: 9-45 | 9.30.18

Three commitments you are called to in our study of the Gospel According to Mark

1. I will invite the Holy Spirit to help me in my study (Psalm 119:18).
2. I will keep notes of my journey through Mark.
3. I will review the study guides on a faithful basis.

What are the “big pictures” of Mark’s gospel account?

1. God keeps all of his promises and does so on His timetable.
2. The preaching, teaching and serving life of Jesus are big pictures.
3. Jesus calls every follower to various forms of suffering.
4. It’s an honor of highest calling to be a servant of and to suffer for Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:1-3 We can trust God to keep His promises (Isaiah 40).

Mark 1:4-8 The message of the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist.

Mark 1:9-13 The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:14-20 Jesus calls four fisherman to follow Him.

Mark 1:21-28 Jesus preached and cast out a demon in the Synagogue.

Mark 1:29-39 Jesus healed many and preached in numerous Synagogues.

Mark 1:40-45 Jesus healed the leper and faced huge crowds that hindered His ministry.

When I become a sincere follower of Jesus Christ...

- My pride will be exposed.
- My traditions will be attacked.
- My consumerism will be challenged.
- My comfort zones will be expanded.
- My personal agendas will be dismantled.

Mark 1:14-15 *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**”*

Repentance literally means a “change of mind.” It is a change of mind about who God is and about our root sin of self-reliance. The change results in a humble submission to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Repentance involves both the mind and the will. **Repent and believe** is a different side of the same coin of trusting Christ as Lord and Savior. Theologically, “repent” and “believe” describe one action, which is the decision to turn from self and to turn to Christ.

There is an **initial repentance** that occurs at salvation. It is one time and results in eternal life!

There is a **continual repentance** which is daily, and it results in a blessed life and sweet fellowship with Christ! **1 John 1:9-2:1**

Mark 1:21-22 Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- The Scribes compared Rabbis to support their personal views; Jesus used Scripture.

It is a gift from God to feel the weight of our sin and guilt.

*“Before I thought upon my soul’s salvation, I dreamed that my sins were very few. All my sins were dead, as I imagined, and buried in the graveyard of forgetfulness. **But that trumpet of conviction, which aroused my soul to think of eternal things**, sounded a resurrection – note to all my sins; oh how they rose up in multitudes more countless than the sands of the sea! Now, I saw that my very thoughts were enough to damn me, that my words would sink me lower than the lowest hell, and as for my acts of sin, they now began to be a stench in my nostrils so that I could bear them no more.”*
(age 15) C.H. Spurgeon

Mark 1:23-28 Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

Jesus - “follow me”

- When we first follow Christ, we give Him our weaknesses, when we continue to follow Him we surrender our strengths.
- Followers refuse to be satisfied just to be saved and on their way to Heaven. For followers, Christianity is a relationship, an adventure, and passionate pursuit of Christ.
- At times, believers begin to think that Christ exists to follow us and satisfy our demands.
- Starting off as a follower is easy, staying faithful as a follower is the challenge and we must rely on the ministry of the Holy Spirit to enable us to remain faithful followers of Christ.

Our **faith in God** should affect every area of our lives. There is no part of our personal world that’s outside of His Lordship. That means that there must be no part of my life that is outside His Lordship. God has something to say about my relationships, my time, and my money. My faith in God creates a desire to know what He has to say, and a desire to apply it in a sincere and consistent way.

“Father, I want to know Thee, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou mayest enter and dwell there without a rival.” A. W. Tozer