

*An Invitation to
Day-To-Day Ministry:
Mark 1:14-20*



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¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: ¹⁵ "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news!"

¹⁶ As He was passing along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen.

¹⁷ "Follow Me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fish for people!" ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in their boat mending their nets. ²⁰ Immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

Mark 1:14-20 HCSB

Introduction

Have you ever felt like you just aren't enough? No matter how hard you try you just seem to fall short? Those aren't happy thoughts that are brought to light by those questions, but they are very real. However, when we look at Mark 1:14-20 the reality of not enough seems to radiate right off the page and yet amid not being enough we find a calling to be more than we ever thought we could be in the Lord Jesus.

The events of Mark 1:14-20 take place after both the wilderness temptation of the Lord Jesus and then as indicated by the passage itself the arrest of John the Baptist. There is a gap that occurs, and the reality is that in this gap Jesus had begun to preach publicly and there were a number that began to follow him. Among those who had met and even been ministered to and been part of ministry with the Lord Jesus are James, John, Andrew, and Peter. Yet those events are absent from Mark's Gospel so as not to distract from the main idea of the work and to keep the pace of the text moving for a Gentile world.

Realize the Unchanging Message

So, let us follow suit and begin our quest for more than enough by looking at verses 14-15. In these verses we must realize the unchanging message. John has been arrested for preaching the message of repentance and yet here comes the Lord Jesus preaching a message of repentance and faith in the Gospel for salvation and entrance into the Kingdom of God.

If there was ever a time to change the tune it was after the arrest of John the Baptist, but in the aftermath of such an event we are introduced to a message that cannot be changed. One cannot become a citizen of the kingdom apart from repentance of sin and faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. If we genuinely want to be less than God ever created us to be; if we desire to be less than enough then let us change the message offering a false hope that our altered message brings to bear.

Salvation is rooted in the repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing else offers genuine hope for salvation. The unchanging message is more than enough for humanity's sin and it is more than enough to bring about humanity's salvation. The message is unchanging and from that unchanging message comes hope for all.

Recognize Who You Are

So, with assurance in the message we examine verses 16-20. As we look at these verses, we are challenged to recognize who we are. Often, we feel that we are not enough because we are trying to be someone that God never created us to be. Verse 16 declares that these future apostles were fishermen and as a result Jesus offers them the opportunity to fish for the souls of others. These men were not business leaders, though they owned a business. They were not orators, though they would come to lay the preaching foundation of the church. They were not authors, though they would write some of the greatest words ever penned. They were fishermen and that is what Jesus offered them to be.

So often we believe that to be what God has called us to be, we must become like someone else. Yes, the message of the Gospel demands change, but it is a change of character that results in a change of attitude and action. The Gospel does not call us to abandon what makes each of us a unique creation of God himself.

We are to be molded into the image of Jesus and not into the image of other people. God made you who you are. He did not make you who you are so that you could then trade that in to be someone else. We can learn from other's in Christ and we can grow with others in Christ, but we are not to abandon our identity in Christ to become someone else.

Imagine the mess that we would be in if when we came to the Lord Jesus, we were then to focus on become another person rather than who God created us to be. God made you who you are. Your interests, your talents, your skills, and your personality are all unique to you and they are what the Lord Jesus wants to use to take the unchanging message to a world lost in sin and desperate for the Gospel. Being enough isn't being someone else, but rather trusting in God to use the you he created and the you he has made a citizen of his kingdom for his kingdom purposes.

Rest in the One You Are Following

But we do not simply rely on knowing who we are. When we continue to look at verses 16-20 we also see that those who the Lord Jesus calls are charged to follow him. In that sense we know who we are, but we rest in the one we are following.

Jesus tells them follow me and I will make you fish for the souls of humanity. I am fairly sure that is a little out of their line and expertise. In this we recognize that we cannot accomplish what God has placed before us in and of ourselves.

We must follow the Lord Jesus and as we follow him, he will mold us, shape us, and mature us into the disciples he has called us to be. The moment you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ; you became more than enough because the Lord Jesus is more than enough. In what Jesus has accomplished, he has made you more than enough. Now we live each day to embody what the Scriptures have declared about who we are in Jesus Christ. Our value is not rooted in what we have done but in what the Lord Jesus has done, and our fruit is the produce of following Jesus by faith each day faithfully.

Application

What does that look like? The last page of this book is a simple listing of ways you can follow Jesus as his disciple. As you read this list you will find things that appeal to you, things that don't appeal to you, and things that the Lord may invite you to join him in. No one can do all these things all the time, but all of us can do some of these things every day as we follow the Lord Jesus and join the work of the kingdom ministry. These things look different, these things are different, and these things are tools and instruments that the Lord Jesus can use in our lives to mold us further and expand his kingdom in the lives of others. As you go over your list then, find several things that you can do and start to do them. Find the avenue for ministry that the Lord Jesus is leading you down and then follow him faithfully.

What difference does this truly make? First, you are taking time to focus your life on eternal principles and purposes that the Lord Jesus has called us to embrace. Second, you are actively embracing your part in something greater than yourself in faith. Third, you are practically engaging in the ministry of the local church and the Christian life.

Previously, I challenged our church to abandon social media and network news coverage as a detox for a week. What this also did was provide me an opportunity to see just how much social media engagement drives our online social media outreach. Without me sharing the content on my social media page this last week, our exposure dropped over 30% just from one person not sharing our content.

What difference might be made in the lives of those we are connected to if instead of one person not sharing, 20 people started to share and comment on our social media activities? How many people that you are connected too might hear the Gospel for the first time if you began to share the content our page posts? How many people you invite to join you for this time of worship might respond if you send them a direct link to last week's service and say, "Hey I just wanted you to have an opportunity to see what our church is like before you decide whether or not to come with me Sunday"? This is just one potential area of ministry that you can get yourself involved in with very little investment of time effort and energy but with an investment of intentionality and focus.

Conclusion

As you engage in daily ministry, you will discover that in and of ourselves we really aren't ever going to be enough, but through the Lord Jesus Christ we are always more than enough. As we do ministry each day, let us realize the unchanging message and do that which we can do to share it with others as we minister, let us recognize who we are and find ministry that the Lord brings before us that fits the mold he has cast around our lives, and let us rest in the one we are following to lead us in the work of ministry that best fits his plans and his purposes.

A Daily Guide for Ministry Focus

Each day find avenues for ministry in and around your daily life

The Ministry of Prayer

- Pray for your church's leaders
- Pray for volunteers to support the ministry of your church
- Pray for 3 families in your church
- Pray for one lost person by name to receive Jesus
- Pray for the spread of the Gospel; The International Mission Board, The North American Mission Board, The Wyoming Southern Baptist Mission Network, Send Wyoming Church Planting Network, West Region of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Mission Network, and Specific Missionaries and Peoples
- Participate in a Prayer Walk/Prayer Drive in your neighborhood

The Ministry of Care

- Let one family you are praying for this week know you are praying for them
- Contact someone who was not a church this week and check on them
- Prepare a meal for someone who has been sick
- Show love to someone else in a practical way each week

The Ministry of Outreach

- Share, like, and/or comment on a social media post from your church each day
- Share the livestream of our weekly worship service
- Invite someone who does not attend church to visit with you on Sunday
- Volunteer to help with outreach events from your church
- Share the Gospel with others

The Ministry of Relationships

- Attend a L.I.F.E. Group
- Attend the weekly worship service
- Read the Bible and pray with your Family
- Share a meal with another family in your church
- Share a meal with a person who does not know Jesus
- Volunteer to help a local community service organization/community service project

The Ministry of Service

- Volunteer in the nursery
- Volunteer in the kitchen
- Volunteer in the children's ministry
- Volunteer in the youth ministry
- Volunteer to help in your Sunday school class
- Volunteer to serve as a door greeter in Worship
- Volunteer to teach a class
- Volunteer to do some maintenance around the church
- Give financially to the ministry of your local church

The Ministry of Worship

- Sing praises to the Lord in private and in public worship
- Use your gifts and talents (singing, writing, drama, etc.) as a way to express worship to the Lord Jesus
- Encourage others to use their talents in worship
- Worship the Lord every day with prayer, Bible reading, and a commitment to being faithful

Every day is an opportunity to make a difference through the power of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. You have heard the call of the Lord Jesus now let us join in the work with commitment.