

MARK 1:16 – 39

^{1:16} Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. ²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned

among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. ²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Take time to read the passage carefully for yourself. Notice and mark down its structure, repeated words, key movements, and anything that stands out or raises questions. The questions below are offered as tools to help you notice, reflect, and respond to the text—use those that are most helpful for you or your group.

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

- Mark gives little detail about why the disciples followed Jesus, only noting that they immediately left everything to follow Him.
 - What does their response reveal about Jesus' authority and the nature of discipleship?
 - How does this call connect to the message of Mark 1:1–15?
- What does it mean to be “fishers of people,” especially in the cultural context of first-century Galilee? What identity is Jesus giving to His disciples through this metaphor?
- What do the disciples leave behind or deny to follow Jesus, and what do they gain in return?
- What stands out about the way Jesus teaches? Why is this significant for understanding His ministry and mission?
- How is Jesus' teaching authority connected to His authority over unclean spirits?
 - Why might He have silenced the spirits?
 - What does the reaction of the onlookers reveal about Him and their understanding of who He is?
- Why is it significant that Jesus' first encounter with opposition occurs in a religious setting? What might this suggest about the nature of His mission?
- What is noteworthy about the healing of Simon's mother-in-law and the way Jesus heals her? How might this have impacted Simon personally?
- What do the healings at the doorway reveal about Jesus' authority and how He chooses to use it? What do these actions reveal about how people perceive and believe in Him?
- What is significant about Jesus' time spent in prayer? How does this moment relate to the overall passage and His mission?
- Summary:
 - What do we learn about Jesus, the gospel, and kingdom of God in this passage?
 - What does this passage teach us about Jesus' authority, identity, and purpose?
 - Write a one or two-sentence summary of the main point of this text. What is God's word for you from this passage? How will you respond?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- What does it mean for you to repent, believe the good news, and follow Jesus as the fishermen did? Are there things—even good things—you might need to leave behind to be with Him and obey His call? What motivates you to take this step?
- Jesus' call to discipleship invites us to participate in His mission. What might it look like for you, practically, to be a “fisher of people” and share His good news with others? What obstacles do you face, and what encourages you to do so?
- In what areas of chaos, sickness, or brokenness in your life or the world around you do you need Jesus' touch? How can you bring these to Him? Will you trust in His authority and compassion to bring His kingdom's order and peace into those areas?
- How does Jesus' example of prayer challenge and encourage you? How can you make prayer a consistent part of your discipleship and decision-making?