

James Rafferty - **Lesson 2 July 6, 7**

**July 6-12*

NEXT WEEK - LESSON 3 - CONTROVERSIES

Daniel- Jesus' immediate gospel work

Jill - the various aspects of Jesus gospel ministry

Shelley -the secret of Jesus gospel ministry

Ryan - Jesus treatment of people in gospel ministry

A Day in the Ministry of Jesus

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Mark 1:16-45, John 1:29-42, Mark 5:41, Luke 6:12, Leviticus 13.*

Memory Text: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men' " (*Mark 1:17, NKJV*).

Each Gospel introduces the beginning of Jesus' ministry in a particular way.

Matthew presents Jesus as calling disciples and then preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

Luke tells the story of Jesus' inaugural sermon on a Sabbath in the synagogue in Nazareth.

John recounts the calling of some of the early disciples and the wedding at Cana, where Jesus performs His first *sign*.

The Gospel of Mark recounts the calling of four disciples and describes a Sabbath in Capernaum and what followed.

This "Sabbath with Jesus" at the beginning of Mark gives the reader a sense of who Jesus is. In the entire section for this week's lesson there are very few of His words recorded: a brief call to discipleship, a command to a demon, a plan to visit other locations, and the healing of a leper with instructions to show himself before a priest to be clean. The emphasis is on action, particularly healing people. The Gospel writer likes to use the word *immediately* to illustrate the fast-action movement of Jesus' ministry.

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, July 13.*

SUNDAY

July 7

"Follow Me"

Read Mark 1:16-20. Who were the men Jesus called as disciples, and what was their response?

Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed Him.

19 And when He had gone a little further thence, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20 And straightway He called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after Him.

Mark 1 does not have many of Jesus' words recorded. However, Mark 1:17 does have His words to two fishermen, Simon, who will later be called "Peter," and his brother, Andrew. The

two men are standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, casting a net.

There is no mention of a boat or other fishing paraphernalia, which may suggest that the two men are not well off financially. In Mark 1:19, 20, James and John are in a boat with their father and servants, which suggests that they were better off financially than Peter and Andrew. Luke indicates that Peter does have a boat and that, in fact, James and John were partners of Peter and Andrew (*see Luke 5:1-11*). But the Gospel of Mark may be presenting a contrast between the two sets of brothers, and in order to illustrate that difference Jesus calls to discipleship both those who have less resources and those with more.

Jesus' call to these men is simple, direct, and prophetic. He calls them to follow Him; that is, to become His disciples. He indicates that if they will respond to His call, He will take on the task of making them fishers of men.

**Ponder why these men would immediately (*Mark 1:16- 20*)
leave everything and follow Jesus.**

John 1:35-41

[Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;](#)

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

The Gospel of John fills in the picture more fully (see *John 1:29-42*). It seems that the brothers were followers of John the Baptist and heard his proclamation that Jesus was " 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world' " (*John 1:29, ESV*). They met Jesus and spent time with Him near the Jordan River.

Consequently, their acceptance of Jesus' call to ministry was not some lark or escapade. They had thought this through.

But why does Mark not fill in more details? Likely, it is to emphasize the power of Jesus. He calls, and willing fishermen answer, and their lives, and the world itself, are never the same.

What have you been called to give up in order to follow Jesus? (Think about the implications of your answer, especially if you can't think of anything.)