

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock & my salvation. (v6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us & accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, & make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near; repent, & believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon & his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me & I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets & followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee & his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; & they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, & followed him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Look carefully at vv14-15; what can you learn about the gospel/good news? *Hint- look for 6 things. See Matthew 4:17; Luke 24:47; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; Galatians 1:3-5 to expand your list.*
2. Review Jonah’s story & St. John the Baptizer’s story (*Mark 6:14-29*). (By the way, some of St. John’s disciples became Jesus’; cf. *John 1:35-42*). What’s at risk for these disciples as they walk away from following one lifestyle to following Jesus? *See Mark 10:28-31*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Building on #2, what’s risky about following Jesus for you in everyday life? Note- the question isn’t what’s risky about being a loudmouth, opinionated, doctrinaire partisan, or a tattletale/ snitch/ gossip, or a “let me talk to the manager!” Karen. You may have to think about this question a little bit each day.
4. Jesus chooses his own disciples (v17; cf. *John 15:16*) How does this give you confidence in following Jesus, that something more than your will power or opinion is at work? *Review Small Catechism: Creed, 3rd article (have you memorized this yet?); Formula of Concord Epitome: XI Election, (if you have time read the FC Solid Declaration XI, too); SC, FCEp, & FCSD available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Jesus is compelling to not-yet-believers. Every Christmas & Easter the national media capitalize on this interest. How does your own “fishing for people” (v17) show & tell Jesus in a compelling & Biblical way? How can you “decrease” so that this compelling side of Jesus “increases” (cf. *John 3:30*) in your everyday life? Reviewing #1, how is the gospel the fishing net? *Hint- look up a seine net.*
6. Building on #2, 3, what’s risky about following Jesus for your congregation in your neighborhood? Again, the question isn’t what’s risky about becoming (partisan) social-issue activists, or aggressive MLM-type recruiters, or obnoxious, garish, & pretentious neighbors. *See Romans 12:18*

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Third Sunday after Epiphany

01.21.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at Work in our Lives

Our Security

*The Holy Spirit compels John the Baptizer, the prophet Jonah,
& us to take a risk*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Abraham (v25)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, & believe in the good news. (*Mark 1:15*)

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