

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1Jonah 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. St. John the Baptist is also known as the Forerunner. How does his arrest also prepare the way for Jesus (*Mark 1:2*)? *See Mark 1:4, 6:14-29; Luke 3:18; John 3:25-30; Mark 14:43-50, 15:6-15, 42-46*
2. How does pairing *1 Corinthians 7:29-31* with the *Gospel* reading heighten the urgency of Jesus’ message? *Cf. Mark 1:18, 20 & 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31; see Jonah 3:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9* By the way, what’s happening to our time? Where is it headed? *See Romans 13:11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Ephesians 1:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; James 4:13-16; 1 Peter 4:7*

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

3. Do these first disciples say a “sinner’s prayer”? Make Jesus the king of their hearts? Decide that he’s their personal Lord & Savior? Read the color-coded “Wordless Book”? What’s another name for this compelling spirit of Jesus? *See John 15:16-19, 26; Romans 8:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Small Catechism: Creed III, available <bookofconcord.org>*
4. Commit to reading the entire *Gospel of Mark* in one day- (about 1-1.5 hours of reading). How does Mark keep driving or propelling the story (make it a “page-turner”)? What do you notice about Jesus? How is this presentation of Jesus different from what you remember in children’s Sunday school or Contemporary Christian Music radio? At what point does Jesus stop sounding like a Teen Beat magazine heart throb?

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?
6. Building on #4, 5, it’s easy to confuse Jesus’ compelling side with novelty & shallowness, trading steak for sizzle, turning “fishing for people” into marketing, showboating, & razzle-dazzle. If we take Jesus’ proclamation in v15 as the goal of everything he does, how does that become a compelling, one day at a time, easy does it, keep it simple, hang in there, practical vision of a target, a promised future that only he guarantees?

Third Sunday after Epiphany

01.24.21

Series: Everyday Holiness

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Hallmark of Holiness

*That we turn away & return to God is the one-day-at-a-time,
practical foundation of doing holiness*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [Jesus said,] “The time is fulfilled, & the kingdom of God has come near; repent, & believe in the good news.” (v15)

-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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Festival of Our Lord's Epiphany

01.03.21

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Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

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