

## **Mark**

### **“The Greatest Preacher”**

#### **1:14-20**

- I. **Introduction**
- II. **Vs. 14-15 Three elements of Jesus’ preaching**
- III. **Vs. 16-20 Three effects of Jesus’ preaching**

#### **I. Introduction**

The rest of this first chapter will stress the WORK of Jesus as we see His miracles but Mark records that the focus of the work of Jesus was the WORDS of Jesus. Jesus was essentially a preacher who did wonderful miracles that gave credence to His words, not a miracle worker who sometimes had something to say. There are few things that cause more terror than public speaking. Standing in front of people, for 45 minutes with no other conversation, giving a clear easy to follow presentation of truth. The truth is the best all other pastor teachers can do is teach His teaching. The best teachers are those that don’t try to dazzle their listeners with stories and clever opinions but just let Jesus speak. Mark passes over a full year of Jesus’ ministry which is given in more detail in John’s account who is the only one that does. There you will find Jesus famous encounter with Nicodemus and the most quoted verse in all the Bible John 3:16. You will also read of Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well, His first recorded miracle at the wedding at Cana and more. Mark knew of these events but to his Roman readers there were two more important things than the events of that year:

- a. Vs. 14-15 **The message of the Son of God**
- b. Vs. 16-20 **The effect of the message on His subjects**

## II. Vs. 14-15 Three elements of Jesus' preaching

Vs. 14 Galilee was no small area according to the Jewish historian Josephus, it was an area 60 miles by 30 miles that had over 204 villages with the smallest having 15,000 people; which means that there were over 3 million folks living in this area. It must be noted that Jesus moving from Judea to Galilee was not as some seem to imply, the moving away from danger. Galilee was Herod's district, Jesus was not moving away from danger but closer to it as it was Herod who had arrested John the Baptist. Jesus actions were saying to all, "You may if you can try to silence the voice of a prophet but you can never silence the Word of God!" It needs to be noted that the summation of Jesus preaching is GOOD NEWS and it would be throughout His life, His words were never about accusation or denunciation as God did not send His Son into the world to judge it but to save it because it was already reeling from the effects of its own judgment.

Vs. 15 When you place this story before us in chronological order Jesus' coming to Galilee to preach the gospel of the kingdom happened on the same trip that had taken Jesus through Samaria to talk with the woman at the well. Jesus' message had to do with not with His reign over a land but rather His reign in people's lives who invite Him in.

Mark tells us; (no doubt from Peter's memory), that Jesus' preaching had three essential elements to it:

1. **The kingdom of God:** Jesus wanted to tell people about a different kingdom than the one that humanity was presently experiencing. He came to set up the "*real truth about life*", the good news was that the Kingdom of God was at hand. In human history no matter what earthly kingdom, government or political party, before long the subjects will discover that the "*New Regime*" offers the same old platitudes and the only New Truth they have is "*New rhetoric*" with the same old lies! But Jesus' words were not mere empty promises but a revelation that there was a Kingdom above an earthly one, a spiritual kingdom that supersedes and controls the failed human kingdoms. Jesus' kingdom controls human history, all of the daily events of our life will bow down to His plan and purposes.

2. **Repentance:** Second, Jesus invited people after hearing of a better Kingdom to realize that the kingdom they were currently in was not worth staying in and that they must leave at once. Since the fall of mankind people had risen up, kings and kingdoms had come and gone and everyone revealed to the subjects of humanity that they had fallen into condition that rendered all people hopeless and helpless to correct their condition, life had become IMPOSSIBLE. But Jesus came to proclaim and end this impossible human condition. The subjects of the old failed life must want to leave the human kingdom for the divine! It all really boils down to, do you want “*life to master you*” or do “*you want to master life through the Master*”? This is why Jesus declared in Matthews account that “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*”

3. **Belief:** Finally, Jesus spoke of the need to trust Him at His word and work as it wasn't enough to merely acknowledge that you were living in the wrong kingdom and want to leave you would have to trust Jesus and LEAVE! Jesus didn't preach repentance as that is not enough to save, repentance without faith is nothing more than remorse which in the end can destroy a life as much as the sin as it waits a person down with the burden of guilt. That is why Jesus preached repentance and faith in Him.

Great evangelical preaching must contain those three elements of our Master and if they don't it doesn't matter how great a person's voice, how clever their stories or how popular they are as a person, they most certainly are proclaiming something or someone but it is not the gospel that Jesus preached!

### III. Vs. 16-20 Three effects of Jesus' preaching

Vs. 16 As you read from the 16<sup>th</sup> verse to the end of the chapter you notice that each section or vignette is started with words that either continue the narrative or offer a time in which the new event took place. Words like “*then, when, now, at evening, in the morning, as soon as...*” all indicate that the progression of events chronologically happen on the same day! Thus this section can be called a “**Day in the life of Jesus**”! That adds to our understanding of the words of the Apostle John in 20:30 that, “*truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written...*” and 21:25 “*there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if written one by one, I suppose the even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*”

Again the Jewish historian, Josephus who was once governor of Galilee wrote that there were 330 fishing boats that sailed upon the lake. People seldom ate any meat but fish and most of it salted fish as there was no means to keep it apart from salting it, eating fresh fish was a delicacy. Even the names of the cities that dotted the shores of Galilee demonstrate the importance of commercial fishing, Bethsaida means “*House of fish*” and Tarichaea means “*Place of salt fish*”. Abraham Lincoln once said, “***God must love the common people, He made so many of them.***” These fishermen didn’t represent the cream of the crop, **they would have been an example of those voted least likely to be effective for the work of reaching the world.** This fact was further illustrated in the words found in Acts chapter 4 “*when the religious leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And realized that they had been with Jesus.*” **A person should never think much of themselves beyond what Jesus can make of them and never so little of others than what Jesus thinks of them!** It is a wonderful reality to realize that **whenever God calls a person to a task He alone assumes the responsibility to fit us for the work by the Spirit of God.** That is what impressed Mark when Jesus walked spoke to them saying, “*Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men*”. Jesus words announced two things that moment:

- **He assumed the entire responsibility to their training**
- **He guaranteed success in their lives in an area they had no experience in**

Of the 12 men Jesus called as many as 7 were fishermen, which bids the question: What about fishing makes a person a good fit for Christian service, perhaps Patience and Perseverance. Mark records, **three effects of Jesus’ preaching:**

- a. **Made people want to be with Jesus:** This is an observation that is made generally over examining Jesus' three year preaching ministry. *When Jesus spoke people not only wanted to **HEAR Him**, they wanted to be **NEAR Him**.* I believe that ought to be an essential goal in teaching, it ought to cause people who are listening to the message to want to be NEARER Jesus. At its basics the Bible is a **navigation system** and its essential destination is always first to draw a person closer to Jesus than they were before they heard the message.
- b. **Made people want to follow Jesus:** The second thing of note is that when Jesus taught people followed. Mark records two such examples in Peter and Andrew as well as James and John. Four fellows who were employed catching fish using a method of nets and they were caught in the net of Jesus words as he hauled them in and they had no choice but to follow. *Jesus teaches us that we must first come before we can become! You've got to follow the Master before you can become fishers of men. These men were called to the same task only in a different Sea!* Jesus' preaching ministry always made people to want to follow Him, some for the wrong reasons; some at a distance but there was something about His words that made people follow.
- c. **Made people want to obey Jesus:** Finally we see in these 4 men there was a call to action that went beyond a desire to be near Jesus and even following Him to leaving nets or employment and family. If there is ever a failure in the work He has called us it is always easy to find as it will always be that the person called has failed to "FOLLOW JESUS" in yielding to the work of the Holy Spirit. It needs to be mentioned that these three effects don't always happen all at once. These four are again an example of this as they wanted to be near Him, and they followed Him but they didn't obey Him until here in these verses a year later.

The work guaranteed by Jesus with what can only be called "*inferior material*" is

**accomplish without taking away the personality of the people.** Jesus didn't change

who they were; *they started out fishermen and they remained fishermen! What changed*

*is what they now valued as worthy of catching!* James and John the brothers were

mending nets and so they continued mending nets again what changed is what they were

mended for. Jesus never molded the worker into a certain mold, what He does is cause the

worker to become fully who He has created them to be in the first place and utilizes the

talents, gifts experiences and education into a one of a kind master piece!