

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**“The Beginning of the Ministry of Jesus”**  
**Mark 1:16-45**

**BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN**

Jan 6	Genesis 19-21	Jan 10	Genesis 30-31
Jan 7	Genesis 22-24	Jan 11	Genesis 32-34
Jan 8	Genesis 25-26	Jan 12	Genesis 35-37
Jan 9	Genesis 27-29	Jan 13	Genesis 38-40

**Lesson Introduction:** Our lesson this week focuses primarily on the authority of Jesus (a recurring theme throughout the Gospel of Mark). As Jesus begins His ministry, Mark wastes no time in showing us Christ’s authority in all that He says and does. We will spend our time this week considering **the authority of Christ’s call, the authority of Christ’s teaching, and Christ’s authority over sickness**. We will continue in **Ch. 1** next week, as we consider Christ’s source of strength and authority as seen in **verses 35-39**.

**FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:**

- **The call to discipleship is authoritatively initiated by Christ (V.16-20)**
- **The teaching of Christ is authoritative (V. 21-28)**
- **Christ has authority over sickness (V. 29-34, 40-45)**

**Mark 1:16-45**

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.

40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” 45 But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

### Discussion Section 1: *The Authority of Christ's Call (V.16-20)*

-In what ways might the calling of the first disciples seem strange to us, or to the original audience of this text?

-What does this passage tell us about how discipleship begins?

-What was the purpose of Jesus calling these men?

**Note:** *Imagine being right in the middle of doing your job, when suddenly, some guy walking by simply says "follow me." It seems absurd that one would drop what they are doing, no questions asked, and take off after such a person. Yet, as Jesus' ministry is just beginning to take off, something about His call was so enticing, that the four men seen in this passage could do nothing but recognize His authority and follow Him.*

*Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' disciples called Him "rabbi" (Matthew 26:25, Mark 9:5, 11:21, 14:45, John 1:38, 4:31, 6:25, 9:2... etc.), which means "teacher," specifically a Jewish scholar. However, the way that Jesus went about gaining followers was not customary in Jewish culture in contrast to how other rabbis did. In his commentary on Mark, James R. Edwards states, "Unlike the decisive call that comes from Jesus, entry into rabbinical school depended on the initiative of the aspiring student, not the call of the rabbi. The personal prominence that Jesus assumes in the call of the four fishermen is highly unusual in Jewish tradition as a whole."*

*While this call from Jesus might have seemed strange in that day and in ours, nonetheless, it is the way that Christian discipleship always comes about (John 10:27-30, Romans 8:28-30, 1 Peter 2:9). Just as Simon, Andrew, James, and John were about their own business before Jesus radically called them, so too were we (Ephesians 2:1-3). We see in this passage that it is only by the authoritative call of Christ that we will ever come to Him! And the purpose of this call is to transform us from people who care primarily about our own agenda into people who work glad heartedly toward God's agenda. The powerful call of Christ would ultimately transform these four fishermen into "fishers of men." How vital it is for us to understand that the call to discipleship is a call that will always lead to transformation (Romans 12:1-2).*

### Discussion Section 2: *The Authority of Christ's Teaching (V. 21-28)*

-What was it about Christ's teaching that the people were so astonished by?

**Note:** *John 7:46 states, in reference to Jesus, "no one ever spoke like this man!" We see here in Mark 1 that the people were blown away by the authority with which Jesus taught. They were used to hearing religious leaders interpret the Law, but Jesus came as the fulfillment of the Law, and authoritatively called people to repentance as He taught. He was not speaking of a salvation that is to come, but rather, He spoke as one who brings salvation! As we study this Gospel book, may we recognize that Christ's words are authoritative, life giving words, and may we heed His teaching.*

### Discussion Section 3: *Christ's Authority Over Sickness (V. 29-34, 40-45)*

-What do the healings of Jesus tell us about His purpose in coming to Earth?

**Note:** *What a stunning thing it must have been for the people to see this man who was teaching with such authority, also bring healing by the touch of His hand and the word of His mouth. We see the one who calls with authority, and teaches with authority, now mercifully healing with authority. The love and compassion of Christ shine brightly through the healings He performed. Jesus could have used His authoritative teaching, and His power to heal, for His own gain, but instead, He showed compassion for the lowly, and pitied even a leper, who was an outcast, and considered untouchable by society. The one with all authority cares for people with fevers, as well as those who seem disgusting to everyone around them.*

*The theme of Christ's authority over sickness will continue throughout this book, but it is important to grasp from the beginning that Christ's authority to heal was always meant to point to a greater healing... A final healing. As we celebrate Christ's authority to heal, may we never lose sight of what this authority tells about His purpose. Christ came to reverse the curse of sin; thus, His healings are not meant to be seen as wishes granted to the most faithful, but rather, they are meant to remind us that Jesus has the power and authority to "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5). As we consider the healings of Jesus, may we rejoice that He has power over the curse, and authority to bring life to that which is in decay!*