



## Sermon Overview

Jesus' formal ministry begins with his own proclamation that the 'Kingdom of God is at hand.' Jesus immediately set himself apart from any teacher or moral philosopher of his day (or any other) with this claim. The essence of Jesus' claim and announcement of his ministry was that good news had arrived; not only in word and deed, but in the very person of himself. Jesus proclaimed the gospel and *was* the gospel.

The first recorded act in Jesus' ministry in Mark's gospel is not something sensational or spectacular. It's not a charismatic sermon or supernatural act – but a summons of four common laborers into fellowship with himself.

Any reasonable questions why four men would abandon their families and livelihoods so quickly are answered by Jesus' authoritative teaching and message of culture-altering life renewal. Down to the individual, everyone is demanded to answer, who is this man?

## Getting Started

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1. Consider times in your life when you have experienced great change. Maybe a change in career or relationships? Fundamental physical or emotional changes? What brought about these changes? What were your motivations and actions?

## Starting with God

2. Jesus' first act is the call of four disciples. What do verses 16-20 tell us about the Kingdom of God?

3. What do verses 21-22 teach us about the Kingdom of God?

4. What do verses 23-28 teach us about the Kingdom of God?

### Living God's Word

5. It is not an exaggeration to say that the seeds of the Christian church originated in the first act of Jesus' public ministry in which he called four fisherman into community with himself. How are you making yourself available to the King and his Kingdom? What kind of disciple are you today? Are you depending on God's grace to bring you into closer proximity to him and others?

### Prayer

*Father God, I admit that I am not capable of following you perfectly. Please draw me near by your power and authority that I may experience the love and grace shown in the person and work of Jesus Christ so I may worship you deeply and share with others authentically. Amen.*

