

JANUARY 12, 2020

The Purpose of the Son of God

In these early passages, we see Jesus's invitation to a peculiar group of men – non-leaders, non-starters, non-influencers. They heard “follow me...” and off they went to experience Jesus's ministry of teaching and healing. We also see the Kingdom being unleashed with swift power and focusing on the *authority* of the Son of God. Take note of the persons who are becoming aware of the Son of God. And see how Jesus brings a teaching and a power that the world has been longing for.

- A disciple is someone who agrees to learn from, submit to one primary teacher. Who are the men that agree to follow Jesus early on in the gospel? (vs.16-20)
- What compels these four fishermen to react so decisively? (vs.16-20) Who did James and John leave behind? What consequences might that decision have wrought? (v.20)
- Mark uses the word *immediately* more than any other gospel writer.¹ Underline how many times this passage uses the word. Why might this word be significant as a theme for Mark?
- Can you think of an influential teacher in your life? What about them made you respond to their authority or wisdom?
- In verses 21-29, the people of Capernaum and the unclean spirits both seemed shocked by Jesus's authority.
- How does Jesus's statement in verse 38 describe his purpose? What – if anything – do we have to do with his purpose?
- **Apply it.** How would you characterize these first days of Jesus's ministry? How does Jesus's pursuit of seclusion in verses 35-37 teach us about a life of rhythm and rest?
- How does Jesus's call on your life result in submission and trust?

¹⁶As [Jesus] was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

²¹They *went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. ²²They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” ²⁶Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

²⁹And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they *spoke to Jesus about her. ³¹And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.

³²When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. ³³And the whole city had gathered at the door. ³⁴And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

³⁵In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. ³⁶Simon and his companions searched for Him; ³⁷they found Him, and *said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” ³⁸He *said to them, “Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.” ³⁹And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

Mark uses *euthys* (immediately) 41 times. The entire NT uses it 58 times.