

ULC Sermon Study Resource

On Purpose - Mobilizing Generations to Join Jesus on His Mission

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Do you prefer the pool or the beach, and why?

Reading: Mark 1:9-20

Outline:

- I. God's Mission (v. 9-11)
 - a. What began in creation is completed in Jesus through the work of the Trinity.
 - b. Our mission as a church is about submitting to God's work, His mission.
Q: *What ultimately happens if we do not submit to God's mission?*
- II. God's Kingdom (v. 12-15)
 - a. After being anointed for His mission, Jesus confronts Satan, and then calls sinners to repent. Jesus ushers in a new kingdom to rescue us.
 - b. There is a confrontation between God's kingdom and the evil that exists in the world.
Q: *Where do we get the strength to engage in spiritual confrontation?*
- III. God's Invitation (v. 16-20)
 - a. When Jesus calls, the disciples follow Him immediately. This is an urgent calling that reoriented people throughout history, and it reorients us today.
 - b. Jesus does not invite people based on merit, He invites based on grace.
Q: *What is the significance of Jesus calling fishermen to be his disciples?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) In what ways can you fulfill this purpose of joining Jesus outside of the church?
- 2) If we do not submit to God's mission, we eventually engage in idolatrous self-glorification. Have you ever experienced this personally or can you think of an example?
- 3) Do you feel uneasy about meeting the evils of the world with confrontation? What can you remember to calm any fears?
- 4) What does it look like to follow and trust in Jesus as the disciples did?
- 5) If Jesus is not the center of our lives, something else is, and this other thing will inevitably demand more and more from us. What does this mean to you?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 6:12 **Q: *What will God's people struggle against in this world?***
- 1 Peter 2:21 **Q: *How does this verse shape our understanding of what it means to give up earthly things to follow Jesus?***
- Mark 10:28-31 **Q: *What can be gained by giving up our earthly possessions?***

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, when Jesus came and called the disciples, they left everything to follow Him. We ask that you would pour out your Spirit to strengthen our faith and that we would cling to the promises of Jesus. Help us to trust that as we leave behind everything to follow you, you promise more than we could ever imagine. In your name we pray, Amen.