

“Jesus says we are only to hate our lives ‘in this world,’ in this fallen, messed-up, other-hurting, self-seeking, rebellious world. I think we could translate Jesus in this way, ‘If one hates the way life is lived in this world, in its consummately selfish way and in our own culpable involvement in that way, then one will, by living counter-culturally, preserve one’s life into a deep, lasting life.’”

—Frederick Dale Bruner

What’s really happening to Christians in Afghanistan?



February 20, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Power of Jesus’ Call

FOLLOW ME AND I
WILL MAKE YOU BECOME
FISHERS OF MEN.



MARK 1:17

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise

"House of the Lord" Smith/Wickham

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism , Q. #27 & 28

Song of Praise

"How Great Thou Art". Stuart K.Hine

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly: Matthew 5:10

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 10:11,10

Song of Renewal

"The Lord is My Salvation". Getty/Nockles/Myrin

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon

"The Power of Jesus' Call"

Song of Communion

"The Power of the Cross". Getty/Townend

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"I Will Follow". Tomlin/Ingram/Morgan

Benediction

Find Rest, Savor Hope, Give Grace

By Scotty Smith

Find Rest – “*Rest in God alone, O my soul.*” Ps. 62:5

Lord Jesus, this is *such* good news... the rest you give us doesn't depend on our performance, circumstances changing, or people's approval. It's not tied to the economy, politics, or our health. *In you* we are forgiven, righteous, and beloved. *By you* we have a redeemed past, present peace, and a glorious forever. 7,000 Hallelujahs on this February Sunday.

Savor Hope – “*Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts...*” Rom. 5:5

No matter what feels threatening and fragile, we have a hope we can count on, risk trusting, and savor like the finest meal. Our Father *will* complete his good work in us, and in his entire cosmos. No disappointment, just eternal astonishment awaits us. Jesus, because of you, Abba loves us as much as He loves you—no strings attached. He has *lavished* his love on us (1 John 3:1), and *poured* it into our hearts. 10,000 additional Hallelujahs!

Give Grace – “*Love each other. Just as I have loved you.*” Jn. 13:34-35

In the coming days, weeks, and months... *nothing* will be more important than encouraging each other daily, bearing each other's burdens, and loving one another as you love us. Jesus, keep us humble, kind, and gentle. Free us to be generous with your mercy and grace. What else could we hope to receive from others? In light of the Gospel, why would we give anyone less? So **Very Amen**.

Upcoming Events

The Sons of Zebedee, James and John

Mark 1:19–20 (ESV)

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.

On this same occasion Jesus saw the sons of Zebedee, James and John, in their boat preparing the nets for another night's fishing. The terms in which they were called are not explicitly stated, but the intimate relationship of these two incidents indicates that they also are summoned to be fishers of men. The stress in Mark's brief report falls upon the sovereign authority in Jesus' call, and the radical obedience of James and John. So compelling is the claim of Jesus upon them that all prior claims lose their validity.

The Nature of Discipleship

Submission to His authority

Obedience to His call

Entrusted with His mission to people

Conclusion

Where are your affections this morning? What has your heart? What brings you joy? What claims your desires and your thoughts? Is it King Christ and His mission? Is it the love of the story of His cross and a desire to bring that story to people who don't know it?

Fill your affections with the cross of Christ, and you will find no room for sin." May God help us by His grace to be His disciples, crucified Christ in the center, gladly pursuing His mission.

¹So Waetjen, A Reordering of Power, 78.

²Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 69). Zondervan Publishing House.

³Gundry, Mark, 70.

⁴Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (pp. 69–70). Zondervan Publishing House.

Sunday, February 20 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer

GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

Tuesday, February 22 6:30-8:00 P.M. Youth Group at the Deicherts

Wednesday, February 23 7:00 P.M. Men's Small Group

at the home of Dave Frame

February 25-27 Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac

Pick up a flyer at the Welcome table.

Wednesday, March 2 Coventry-Warwick Ministerium Lenten Service at

Mt. Carmel UMC, 2203 Harmonyville Rd. Elverson PA 19520.

Pastor Rick will be speaking.

Sunday, March 6 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting of GCC

Everyone is encouraged to attend. Lunch included.

Wednesday, March 9 Coventry-Warwick Ministerium Lenten Service

at Calvary Christian Center, 426 Laurelwood Rd. Pottstown, PA

19465. **GCC will be hosting.** Pastor Jim Jannotti will be speaking.

March 18-19 Men's Retreat at Camp Sankanac

Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson



HAITI: Pray for those in Haiti affected by the disasters, political upheavals, and gang activity. Gang leaders have continued to exert their power by ignoring government laws and committing more acts of violence and extortion. One Area Coordinator, David Castille, has specifically asked for prayer regarding daily kidnappings, which have become a regular risk for everyone living in Haiti.

NEW ZEALAND: Praise God that NZ is back to normal life as restrictions for Covid-19 have been relaxed. Thank God for this ease on restrictions and that classes will be open again. We are also thankful for those returning to the classes. Please pray for all teachers. Pray that God will give them grace and the ability to teach effectively. Pray for the students to listen for God's voice as they explore Scripture and seek to live what they believe.

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

Pray for the young man from Kutztown University who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.

CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

Pray for Steve and Kristen Scholl as they begin their ministry with CRU.

Prayer/Praise.February 20, 2022

- Pray for Nic Collins, who has an opportunity to go to Costa Rica. Pray for guidance in God's will for Nic and for families impacted by their ministry.
- Please pray for Deb Breyer, friend of Dawn Fleetman, who is back in the hospital being treated for COPD and COVID. Pray for her healing.
- Please pray for Agnes, a coworker of Dawn Fleetman, who had a heart attack at work and is in the hospital. It is the second one and now has eight stents. Pray for her recovery.
- Pray for Nic Collins whose school announced they were shutting down this year. Pray for guidance in this next season of Nic' life.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as they have new navy orders for the end of this month to transfer to a marine base in California. Pray for safety in moving and God's wisdom in their decisions.
- Pray for Sam Mace's brother, Bob, and his family. The family is experiencing serious health issues, and difficult decisions need to be made. Pray the family would sense God is with them.
- Praise that Mike Row is doing well and will be coming home on February 21, 2022. Pray for continued strength for Mike.
- Pray for Eric Barret, whose wife, Lizette, passed away. Eric had back surgery and isn't back to work yet. Pray for God's strength, comfort, and peace for Eric, who is really struggling alone with the loss of Lizette.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for healing for Evan and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength, stamina, and a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics. Pray for Austin as he navigates his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny has started physical therapy on his arm. Pray that he will soon be able to have the procedure to get the results of his bladder cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy

Message

The Power of Jesus' Call

Mark 1:16–20 (ESV)

Introduction

Jesus abruptly appears by the Sea of Galilee and without warning calls unsuspecting fishermen to be disciples. Jesus is not going to be a lone prophet wandering in the desert but a leader, whose task as Messiah is to create a community of followers. Since Peter and Andrew cast nets from the shoreline, they are possibly too poor to own a boat while the Zebedees are more upscale, with a boat that can take them anywhere on the lake and hired hands to help with the labor.¹ Whatever their circumstances, these men show their repentance, their desire “to turn,” by dropping everything to heed Jesus' call. Their repentance is more than just a matter of an internal transformation; they turn into something that they are not now, from fishermen to fishers of men.²

Mark 1:16–18 (ESV)

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. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Jesus speaks, “Follow me!” and it creates obedience that compels people to follow and join his band.

What is striking is that Jesus calls them to “follow *me*.” Prophets did not call people to follow themselves but to follow God (compare 1 Kings 19:19–21). The sages of Jesus' day never called people to follow them, only to learn Torah from them. Jesus' call of the disciples is therefore dramatically authoritative and matches the biblical pattern of God's calling of humans: a command with a promise, which is followed by obedience (see Gen. 12:1–4).³ The call so overpowers these disciples that their lives will never be the same again.⁴

Who is this who can create such immediate obedience?

The power of the one who sees persons long before they see him and calls as God calls is the only explanation why these disciples respond immediately as they do.