



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel Servants

Mark 1:16-28

Message #2

Sermon given on October 5, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel Servants

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 1**
- Today, we begin a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel Servants**
- As a young man, one of the few good decisions I made was to sign up to serve in the Navy.
- It has been almost forty years since I left military service, but I am still very proud of the fact that I was a part of the US military.
- My pride is not in myself or what I did, but in the fact that I was a part of something much bigger than myself – something important – something good.
- Several of you here and probably some watching online have served and know what I am talking about.
- We use terms like military service to communicate the reality that our role in the military is to serve this country – to protect the citizens of the United States of America.
- I and every other person who goes into military service raised my right hand swore the same oath.
"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."
- I am proud to have served my country, but I am much prouder to serve Christ.
- I didn't raise my right hand and swear an oath to serve Him; He raised both His arms and swore an oath to God on my behalf.
- I choose to serve out of a deep gratitude for what He did for me.

- But Jesus didn't do it just for me, He did it for everyone.
- As proud as a I am to have served in the military, I am much prouder to have been called into service of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- For two millennia men and women have responded to the call of God to serve the gospel of Jesus.
- In our text for today, we see the first ones called.
- **Mark 1:16-17**
- Sea of Galilee is the lowest body of freshwater on earth at 704 feet below sea level. It is also known as Lake Tiberias and Kinneret.
- Simon and Andrew had met Jesus previously while John the Baptist was at the Jordan River.
- No explanation is given as to why Jesus chose them.
- No reason is given for Jesus choosing any of the disciples.
- His reason has nothing to do with them, and everything to do with Christ.
- In a similar way there is no reason for God to choose to save any of us.
- His reason for doing it is in Him and in Him alone.
- To understand why He chose you, you must understand why He chooses anyone at all.
- 'Follow Me' was a call to abandon everything that was important in their lives.
- They were at the Jordan River when John called people to repent for the kingdom of God was at hand.
- They heard the declaration that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- They had a heart for God.
- But still, what Jesus called them to was a life that was nothing like the life they imagined for themselves.
- This thought terrifies some people.
- They may sense Jesus calling them to follow Him, but they are afraid He may ask them to abandon something in this life that they hold close to their heart.
- That is a dangerous attitude to have. **John 12:25-26**

²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

- Our life in this world matters but it is just a shadow of our life with Jesus in heaven.
- Nothing you do in this life will follow you to heaven except those things you do as you follow and serve Jesus.
- After telling Simon and Andrew to follow Him, Jesus makes a promise if they do – I will make you fishers of men.
- Jesus is calling them out of one life and vocation into a spiritual calling.
- To be fishers of men is to draw men out of the darkness of this wicked world into the light of God's kingdom.
- What strikes me about that phrase is the part where Jesus says He will 'make them' into fishers of men.
- He was going to teach them many things and be an example to them, but they were not going to be able to become what Jesus was calling them to become.
- Jesus had to make them into fishers of men.
- Turn to **John 15**.
- One of the most liberating truths I have ever learned, accepted, and believed is that I can't be anything Jesus doesn't make me into.
- Too many believers think it is their responsibility to be a good Christian, or a good spouse, or a good parent, or in my case, a good pastor.
- I can tell you from personal experience, that doesn't work.
- **John 15:1-4**
- The fruit Jesus is talking about is the spiritual fruit of a life in communion with God.
- It is those things done through faith and obedience by the Holy Spirit to Christ and the Word of God.
- Jesus says that can't happen if we are not connected to Him.
- **John 15:5**
- You can't do it apart from Christ.
- This was hard for me to accept.

- For most of the forty years before Christ saved me, I believed there was nothing I couldn't do all by myself.
- Even after I got saved, I believed I could be a superior Christian, all by myself.
- But then I experienced verse 6.
- **John 5:6**
- I was saved so there wasn't any chance I was going to be cast out, but there were parts of my life and faith that were withering.
- God wanted so much more for me and from me.
- **John 15:7-8**
- The fruit God is looking to bear through His people is the gospel – believed and received.
- You can turn back to **Mark 1**.
- The Bible calls us to do good works.
- Some people are called to very specific works like Simon and Andrew.
- Most people will be called to more general good works.
- Even things that might be viewed by others as mundane or ordinary.
- We have three men who are faithful to show up every week to clean the church – they are doing a fantastic job.
- They are serving the gospel by serving the church as it works to share the gospel.
- If someone gives financially to the church, they are serving the gospel by providing the church the resources it needs to share the gospel.
- If someone is involved in the prayer ministry, they are serving the gospel by bringing the needs of the body of the church before the Lord.
- And serving the gospel isn't limited to things here at church.
- Every time you let the light of Christ Jesus in the world through true faith and obedience you are serving the gospel.
- The church will always need men and women who will take the gospel message out and proclaim it to the lost, but it needs everyone else doing their part also to support those who do that.
- Back in our text – Jesus calls more to follow Him.

- **Mark 1:19-20**
- Eventually Jesus will call a total of twelve to the special place of His disciples.
- Jesus called every person to follow Him, but not in the same way.
- Some were called to abandon their old life to live a new life of service to Christ.
- Some were called to stay in the life they were living and follow Him.
- God is still doing that. I was called out of my old life to serve.
- After calling the four fishermen to follow Him, Jesus gets to the work of the gospel.
- **Mark 1:21-22**
- The people in the synagogue were astonished at Jesus' teaching because that was not what they were accustomed to.
- The scribes were religious experts on the Tanakh, what we call the Old Testament.
- The scribes did not teach from authority.
- They taught what others said about the Tanakh, typically other Scribes or Rabbis.
- Jesus taught as the authority because He inspired the writing of the Tanakh – they are His words.
- One of the roles of a servant of the gospel is to teach people what God said in His Word using whatever authority He has given them.
- Everyone who is a Christ-follower can do that because we are all indwelt with God the Holy Spirit.
- While in the synagogue Jesus did another work of the gospel.
- **Mark 1:23-24**
- This is very early in the ministry of Christ.
- Angels and demons are real.
- This poor man is possessed by a demon.
- If you have ever been around a person who is possessed by a demon, it is both tragic and terrifying.
- 'I know who You are...' The demons knew Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the very Son of God, God Incarnate.
- That phrase 'Holy One' is used in the Old Testament. **Psalm 16:10**

¹⁰**For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

- That is a prediction of the resurrection of the Messiah.
- How did they know Jesus?
- They had been in heaven with Him for millennia, until they were kicked out of heaven during Satan's rebellion.
- 'Did you come to destroy us?' – They knew Jesus had the power and authority to do it. This is an implicit declaration of His deity.
- Jesus exercises His authority over the demon and delivers the poor man from its control.
- **Mark 1:25-27**
- Another work gospel servants do is help deliver people from the bondage of demonic influences or just the influence of a wicked and fallen world.
- Word started to spread about Jesus.
- **Mark 1:28**
- Another thing servants of the gospel do is make sure the good news of Jesus Christ is getting out as far and wide as possible.
- Believers, we have all responded to Christ's call to follow Him.
- Some have been called out of an old life and live for Christ.
- Others have been called to stay in their old life and live for Christ.
- Wherever you are, live for Christ.
- That means calling and encouraging others to follow Christ.
- It means sharing the truth of the Word of God with others.
- And it means helping others escape the bondage of the devil and this world.
- The greatest thing you can do in this life is serve God in the way He created you to serve Him.
- If you are doing that, praise God and keep doing it.
- If you are not sure if you are, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
- Let's pray about it together.
- **Pray! Last Song!**