



ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY CALLING

MARK 1:14-20 ; PSALM 63:1-8
MESSAGE BY THE REV. DR. NATHAN WEAVER

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Calling - January 2024

Mark 1:14-20

14 Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 15 "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

16 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon[g] and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 17 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" 18 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 19 A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. 20 He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.

Our scripture reading this morning tells of Jesus calling his first followers. Jesus had been tasked with the most important mission in human history: to save humanity. This mission was rooted in God's love for all of us. While the fullness of his message would be unveiled on the Cross, it is interesting to look at the core of his first message. "The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent of your sins and believe."

Immediately after he begins preaching, Jesus recruits followers to join him. These first followers were called disciples. The word "disciples" means one who learns, does, and becomes like their teacher. In other words, a disciple becomes like Jesus so that their words, actions, and thoughts mirror Jesus' words, actions, and thoughts. This is a tough task!

How do we become disciples today?

Discipleship is a life-long process. At The Church of the Cross, we are introducing a multi-step process to help us become more like Jesus - Alpha and Rooted

God will equip us to become disciples even if we don't feel capable. The outcome of discipleship is that we make a difference in the lives of others.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a disciple?
2. How do you grow in becoming like Jesus?
3. What challenges do you face as you seek to become more like Jesus?
4. How did the Pharisees describe the disciples?
5. Have you ever led someone to faith in Jesus?

