

# The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM  
& 10:30AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

January 26, 2025



## "Come Follow Me"

Mark 1:16-20 recounts Jesus calling His first disciples as He begins His ministry. Walking along the Sea of Galilee, He invites Simon (Peter) and Andrew, then James and John, to follow Him and become "fishers of people." Without hesitation, they leave their nets, boats, and family to follow Him, trusting in His call and stepping into the unknown. This passage highlights the transformative power of Jesus' call and the disciples' faith-filled response.

### Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

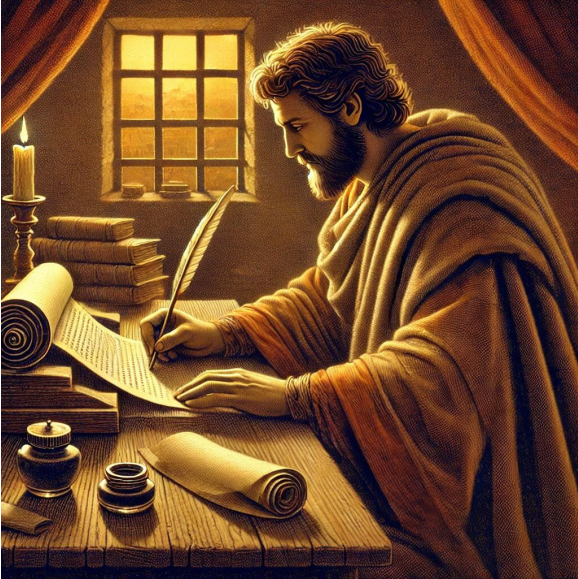
19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

### Interesting Facts About the Gospel of Mark

1. **Authorship:** Mark is traditionally attributed to John Mark, a companion of Peter, whose teachings and experiences are believed to have heavily influenced the Gospel.
2. **Shortest Gospel:** Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels, with 16 chapters, making it concise and action-oriented.
3. **First Gospel Written:** Most scholars believe Mark was the first Gospel written, around 60-70 AD, and served as a source for Matthew and Luke.
4. **Focus on Action:** Mark emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teachings, using the word "immediately" frequently to convey a sense of urgency.
5. **No Genealogy or Birth Narrative:** Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark skips Jesus' genealogy and birth story, starting directly with His public ministry.
6. **Audience:** The Gospel was likely written for a Gentile audience, explaining Jewish customs and translating Aramaic terms for readers unfamiliar with them.
7. **Unique Parables:** Some parables in Mark, like the Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29), are not found in the other Gospels.
8. **Peter's Influence:** Many believe the Gospel reflects Peter's firsthand accounts, as Mark was closely associated with him.
9. **Ending Controversy:** The original ending of Mark (16:8) is abrupt, leaving the women at the tomb afraid. Later manuscripts include additional verses (Mark 16:9-20) that describe resurrection appearances.
10. **Messianic Secret:** Mark highlights the "Messianic Secret," where Jesus often instructs people to keep His identity and miracles private.
11. **Mark's Symbol:** In Christian tradition, Mark is symbolized by a lion, representing courage and the Gospel's opening with John the Baptist's voice "crying out in the wilderness."
12. **Roman Context:** Mark's Gospel reflects the struggles of early Christians under Roman rule, emphasizing discipleship and endurance in suffering.
13. **Focus on Suffering:** Mark portrays Jesus as the suffering servant, emphasizing His humanity and sacrifice for humanity.
14. **First Resurrection Witnesses:** Mark is the only Gospel where women are the first witnesses to the resurrection, underscoring their role in the early Christian community.







Mark, traditionally identified as **John Mark**, was not one of the twelve apostles. However, he played a significant role in the early church and was closely associated with key apostolic figures:

1. **Companion of Peter:** Mark is believed to have been a close associate of the Apostle Peter. Early church tradition, particularly from Papias (a 2nd-century bishop), suggests that Mark acted as Peter's interpreter, recording Peter's eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. This connection is why Mark's Gospel is often viewed as reflecting Peter's perspective.
2. **Companion of Paul and Barnabas:** Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5). However, he left the journey early, which caused tension between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:13; 15:36-40). Despite this, Paul later reconciled with Mark and commended him as helpful for ministry (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24).
3. **Evangelist:** Mark is traditionally regarded as one of the four Gospel writers, earning him the title of "Evangelist." He is credited with writing the Gospel of Mark, which is the earliest and most concise of the four Gospels.
4. **Not an Apostle:** While Mark was not one of the twelve apostles, he played a vital supporting role in the spread of the Gospel and the early Christian movement. His work in documenting Jesus' life and ministry made him an essential figure in the New Testament.



In summary, Mark was a close companion of apostles like Peter and Paul but was not himself an apostle. Instead, he is recognized as an evangelist and an important figure in the early church.

### Upcoming Events:

January 26 - Let Pastor Mark or Doris Branch know of your interest in the Sight & Sound bus trip to see Noah. We hope to get a date in September 2025.

January 26 - Safe Sanctuary Training needs to be completed and paperwork signed.

February 2 - Holy Communion

February 8 - 3-5 Paint Day - Come join us for another afternoon of fellowship and painting.

February 9 - 10am February Birthday Celebration

February 9 - 11am Methodism 101 with Pastor Katie - RSVP to Pastor Mark or Lisa Pearre by February 2nd.

February 16 - 10am Potluck after church

February 18 - April 8th every Tuesday from 7-8pm Online Bible Study exploring Liz Curtis Higgs' bestselling book, *Bad Girls of the Bible*.

February 22 - Community Movie Night

## Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

\*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader:

Today, we gather as the people of God, listening for His voice and ready to respond to His call. Just as Jesus walked along the shores of Galilee and called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave their nets and follow Him, He is calling each of us today.

**People:**

**Lord, we hear Your call. Help us to leave behind what holds us back and follow You with hearts wide open.**

Leader:

Jesus does not call the perfect or the powerful. He calls the ordinary, the weary, and the willing. He takes our lives—just as they are—and transforms them for His purpose.

**People:**

**We are ready, Lord. Use us for Your Kingdom. Teach us to fish for people and to share Your love with the world.**

Leader:

Come, let us worship the One who calls us. Let us trust in His purpose, follow His lead, and proclaim His good news with joy.

**All:**

**Lord, we will follow You. Speak to us, guide us, and send us into the world to be Your disciples. Amen.**

Children's Message

**\*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, p.196 UMC Hymnal**

**Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20**

**Sermon: Come Follow Me**

**Offertory - Music by Gwyn Reynolds**

**\*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal**

**\*Congregational Confession and Pardon**

**Confession (Leader):**

Lord Jesus, You walked along the shores of Galilee and called ordinary people to follow You, promising to make them fishers of people. We confess that too often, we hesitate when You call us. We cling to what is familiar—our routines, our comforts, our fears—because we are afraid of the unknown.

We have not always trusted Your purpose for our lives. We have been slow to leave behind the "nets" that entangle us—our pride, selfishness, and doubt. Forgive us for the times we have heard Your voice and turned away, for the times we have prioritized our own plans over Your Kingdom.

**People:**

**Forgive us, Lord. Free us from what holds us back and teach us to follow You with open hearts and willing spirits.**

**Confession (Leader):**

Lord, we long to be faithful disciples, but we know we cannot do this on our own. Transform us by Your grace. Give us the courage to leave behind our old ways and embrace the abundant life You offer. Help us to trust You completely and to follow wherever You lead.

**People:**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and renew our hearts. Shape us into fishers of people, so that our lives may reflect Your love and draw others to You.**

**Pardon (Leader):**

Hear the good news: Christ does not call the perfect—He calls the willing. His grace is sufficient, His mercy is unending, and His love is transforming. When we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People:**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**All:**

**Thanks be to God! Glory to God, who calls us, forgives us, and leads us into new life. Amen.**

## **O Love How Deep, p.267 UMC Hymnal**

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **\*Jesus shall Reign, p.157 UMC Hymnal**

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

## Sermon Insights

### Sermon Lesson:

Mark 1:16-20 is a powerful call to discipleship, showing how Jesus invites ordinary people into an extraordinary mission. As He walks along the Sea of Galilee, He calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave their nets and follow Him, promising to make them "fishers of people." Their immediate response—leaving behind their work, their security, and even their family—demonstrates the faith and trust required to follow Jesus. This passage reminds us that Jesus' call is not about our qualifications but about our willingness to surrender and step into the unknown. Just as He transformed fishermen into His closest disciples, He calls us to follow Him, leaving behind what holds us back and embracing the life-changing purpose He offers.

### Application:

1. **Be Ready to Leave Your Nets Behind:** Just as Simon, Andrew, James, and John left their nets to follow Jesus, reflect on what "nets" in your life might be holding you back from fully following Him. This could be fear, comfort, habits, or even misplaced priorities. Take a step of faith this week to let go of something that is keeping you from trusting God completely.
2. **Respond to Jesus' Call Immediately:** The disciples didn't hesitate when Jesus called—they acted at once. Consider how you can respond to Jesus' call in your life today. Whether it's serving in your church, reaching out to someone in need, or sharing your faith, don't wait for the "perfect time." Step out in obedience now.
3. **Embrace Your New Purpose:** Jesus called the disciples to be "fishers of people," giving them a new mission. Think about how God might be calling you to use your gifts, skills, or time for His Kingdom. This week, pray about how you can live with intentionality, seeking opportunities to share God's love with others through words and actions.

### Conclusion:

Mark 1:16-20 reminds us that Jesus' call to "Come, follow Me" is a life-changing invitation that requires trust, surrender, and action. Just as He called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave their nets and follow Him, He is calling each of us to step into a deeper relationship with Him and embrace the purpose He has for our lives. Whether it's letting go of distractions, responding to His call with urgency, or using our gifts to share His love, Jesus invites us to be part of His extraordinary mission. As we leave today, may we have the courage to say yes to His call and follow Him wholeheartedly, trusting that He will transform us and use us for His Kingdom. Amen.



### Prayer Requests:

Kevin Anderson, lung cancer and has stopped treatments  
Trish with her health issues  
Deborah & Ronald Fulk with their health issues  
The Family of Donald Corun on his passing  
The Family of Kathy Simmons on her passing  
The Family of Emily Mangan on her passing



### Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive Reminder!



As we gear up for the big game, let's rally together for an even bigger cause—helping our neighbors in need! Our Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive is in full swing, and we need your help to make it a success. The food bank is especially in need of:

Canned Fruit



Canned Tomato or Vegetable Soup



Peanut Butter



### Join Us for an 8-Week Online Bible Study!

You're invited to an engaging and thought-provoking **8-week Bible study** exploring Liz Curtis Higgs' bestselling book, *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Together, we'll dive into the stories of women in Scripture, uncovering lessons of grace, redemption, and God's transformative love.

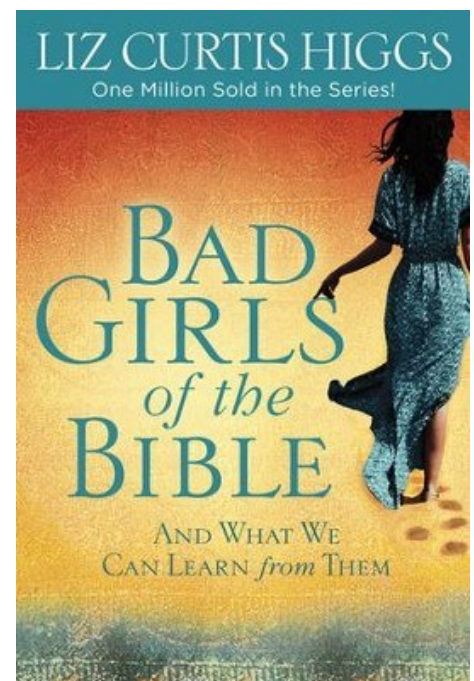
- **When:** Every Tuesday, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- **Where:** Online via Zoom
- **Start Date:** February 18th to April 8th.

This study is open to **both men and women** as we learn from and celebrate the women of the Bible. Whether you're new to Bible studies or a seasoned participant, this is a chance to deepen your faith and connect with others.

You do not need to attend Bible study every week. Please share with your family and friends, as the bible study is open to anyone who wants to participate.

### What You'll Need

Please purchase a copy of *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs to follow along.



## Mark 1 Quiz

Who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River? a) Peter b) John the Baptist c) Paul d) James

What animal symbolized the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus during His baptism? a) Eagle b) Dove c) Lion d) Lamb

True or False: The voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

What did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness? a) Bread and fish b) Locusts and wild honey c) Manna and quail d) Fruits and nuts

Fill in the Blank: Jesus called Simon and Andrew to be "\_\_\_ of men."

What was the first miracle recorded in Mark 1? a) Feeding the 5,000 b) Healing a man with an unclean spirit c) Walking on water d) Raising Lazarus from the dead

How many disciples did Jesus call in Mark 1? A )2 b) 4 c) 8 d) 12

True or False: John the Baptist wore clothing made of camel's hair.

What was Jesus doing early in the morning while it was still dark? a) Preaching b) Praying c) Fishing d) Sleeping

Where did Jesus teach with authority in Mark 1? a) The synagogue in Capernaum b) The temple in Jerusalem c) The Sea of Galilee d) The Mount of Olives

# How many did you get right?