

The Kingdom of God has come near; Repent and believe the good news!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

September 9, 2018

Jesus calls fishermen to serve in his kingdom.



After Jesus declared that the kingdom of God was at hand, he began to build his kingdom by calling people to be his disciples. Surprisingly, Jesus did not look for disciples among the religious elite, but instead called common people into an extraordinary life. He began with a group of fishermen, who left their nets and followed him.

Mark 1:14-20

14 After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God:

15

“The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news!”

16 As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon’s brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

17

“Follow me,” Jesus told them,
“and I will make you fish for people.”

18 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **19** Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. **20** Immediately he called them, and

The Kingdom of God has Come Near!

The kingdom of God is God's global initiative to restore humanity to himself. The kingdom was foretold in Old Testament prophecy, and by the time Jesus appeared, the people of God were waiting with great anticipation. God sent Jesus Christ into the world to inaugurate the kingdom. His first message was a declaration that the kingdom of God had finally come.

I will make you fish for people.

When Jesus called the fisherman, it was an invitation to invest themselves fully in the work of the kingdom of God. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and so they left their nets and followed him. Their discipleship was purposeful. No longer would they be fishing for fish but working to expand the kingdom of God. They would not do this by their own power or ingenuity. Jesus the Messiah would train them.

Immediately they left their nets.

The call of Jesus Christ requires an immediate response. Whenever Jesus calls he provides all the information needed. All that remains is for us to make the choice. Once we hear his call, we should not wait. When we learn how to delay our response, we can continue to do so over the entire course of our lives. No, when Jesus calls we must respond immediately!

Application for Abundant Living

Citizens of the Kingdom

As Christians, we are citizens of a great kingdom! Jesus Christ has come not only to offer us salvation as individuals, but to unite us as citizens of the kingdom of God. As his disciples, Jesus trains us in the values, principles, and practices of the kingdom. As we learn this new way of living, it begins to transform our personal lives. As we become proficient in the ways of the kingdom, we become spiritually mature. Jesus then sends us out into the world to serve as his representatives for the expansion of his kingdom.



Scripture for Further Study

Every disciple must pay a price to follow Jesus Christ. One day, many people were expressing their interest in becoming Jesus' disciples, but he spoke bluntly about the cost. Read about this in **Luke 9:57-62**.

Questions for Group Discussion

As a US citizen, how well do you know the laws and customs of the USA?
(that is, The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, The Bill of Rights)

What words do you use to define your relationship with Jesus?
("Christian" "Follower" "Disciple" "Other")

If discipleship is orientation to the values, principles, and practices of the kingdom, what do you think is the next step for you?

Upcoming Headlines of Jesus' Life:

9/16 Jesus Teaches With Authority and Casts Out Demons!

9/23 People Flock to Jesus for Healing.

9/30 Jesus Touches the Untouchables!