**The Gospel of Mark: A Disciple’s Mirror**

***Reflections on Following Jesus***

From A Handbook on Cross-Bearing

Mark 1:1-20

***What do you do when God comes calling?***

**What’s (happening in) the story?** Immediate action!

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark plunges right into the ministry of Jesus, which is preaching the Gospel in order to make disciples. We read this passage, including the calling of disciples, and may wonder at how easily these men left their jobs and began following Jesus, quite literally.

How could they do that? And why? If we read carefully, we see that Mark answers those questions, which apply to us as well, since they are questions anyone confronted with Jesus must face.

**What’s the challenge in the story?** God is calling YOU!

Mark is not merely telling a good story or providing an historical record. He writes to persuade NEW disciples to follow this Jesus. He knows that the decision to follow Jesus is a life-changing, permanent commitment which requires evidence, reasons, and proof.

So Mark is out to give us a view of Jesus’ glory that moves us to leave our old life and turn to God. We watch the disciples follow Jesus, and say to ourselves, “We, too, must follow Him.”

**What are the key elements in the story?**

Mark, in a set of mini-dramas, gives a background for the Person and ministry of Jesus, whose call is compelling. Why follow Jesus? Because. . .

1. Jesus’ arrival signals good news. v. 1

2. The mission & story of Jesus are rooted in Old Testament prophets. vv. 2, 3

3. Jesus’ message is a call to confess and find forgiveness. vv. 4-6

4. Jesus is endorsed by God the Father and the Holy Spirit. vv. 7-11

5. The story of Jesus is about God’s initiative in salvation. vv. 12, 13

6. Jesus’ arrival means God’s Kingdom has drawn near. vv. 14, 15

7. Jesus invites others to join His disciple-seeking mission. vv. 16-20

**What’s the big idea (main point) of the story?**

*I am compelled to believe the good news of Jesus and become His disciple because*

*He alone incarnates the Godhead’s promised mission of grace*

*to forgive sinners and welcome them into His Kingdom.*

**So let’s take a look at ourselves in Mark’s mirror. . .**

Jesus calls us all to follow Him. Does His call resonate with you?

* Am I seeking to please Him, leaning fully on His grace?
* What, if anything, is stopping me from saying “Yes!” to Jesus?
* Do I value something or someone more than Him?
* Do I doubt He is God’s Son or that God’s promises are true?
* Do I realize that I need the forgiveness He came to provide?
* Am I just apathetic and dead to God’s Spirit?
* Am I afraid of what others might say?