

Small Groups @ TBC

Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: January 7th 2018

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Meet Jesus: Four Fishermen Meet Jesus

Introduction: The 'Meet Jesus' series of talks will be given on community services (1st Sunday of the month) and over the summer of 2018. We will follow through Mark's Gospel and see what we can learn from the many encounters that Jesus has with people. What can we learn about Jesus and what can we learn from him about how we deal with those who we might encounter every day? The overall aim of the series is to increase our confidence in sharing Jesus with those we meet on our frontlines.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Mark 1:14-20

Reflect:

- God calls some very unexpected people. Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-27. If God doesn't call us because of our gifts or strengths, what is gained by calling the 'weak and foolish'? (see 1 Cor 1:27 & 2 Corinthians 4:7).
 - What does Jesus' call to four ordinary, unexceptional, unqualified fishermen teach us about the people we might have the opportunity to share faith with?
- Jesus calls the fishermen to 'follow me'. He doesn't say 'follow me and your sins will be forgiven' or 'follow me and you'll go to heaven when you die'. What Jesus DOES say is that following him will result in them doing what he is doing i.e. fishing for people!
 - How might this challenge the way we think of sharing our faith?
- How do people in the group react to the idea to being called to become fishers of people? How do they go about using their lives as a net that draws people to Jesus? Do these passages give any clues? Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14,15; 1 Peter 2:11,12
- What do you think motivated the fishermen to leave everything to follow Jesus? (we can assume that they were aware of the events of Mark 1:1-11).
 - How can we talk about becoming part of God's kingdom with our non-Christian friends, in such a way that people want to get in on it too?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- What did you see in Jesus when you first set out to follow him? What have you seen since that keeps you following?
- Read 1:14,15. Jesus called people to 'repent' and 'believe'. In the response of the four fishermen, what can we learn about what it means to 'repent' and what it means to 'believe'.
- Zebedee is left at work watching his sons, heirs and workforce walk away with Jesus. This speaks volumes of the cost of the call to follow Jesus. Read Luke 9:23.
 - Why is it important to point out the cost of following Jesus to potential new converts?
 - If you were talking to a potential new convert, how would you explain the cost?
 - Why might we be tempted to water down the cost - and what would be the effect of doing so?
 - Ask people if they are willing to explain the cost of following Jesus for them at the moment. Pray for one another in the light of this sharing.

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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