

Thursday

Follow Me

Today's Scripture Mark 1:16–20

Today we begin our reading of Mark's account of the Good News. Mark's is the shortest of the accounts. Luke's has nearly twice the number of words. A good reader can read Mark aloud in about an hour.

The Gospel at full speed. There's not a lot of commentary, but there's certainly plenty of what Jesus did that reveals both the passion and compassion of the Lamb of God! Mark launches like a jet. For instance, Mark records Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law within the first 15 verses. It's 215 verses before Matthew gives his account.

“Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.” (Mark 1:16–20)

When following Jesus there are always things to be left behind. Sometimes those things are cherished. For Simon (Peter) and Andrew it was a profession, income, a potentially promising prosperity. For James and John it was family and servants. A few thoughts: First, sometimes those things we leave, we get back. That was the case with James and John who it appears had several family members who also followed Jesus. Second, the trade-off is always worth it. Peter and Andrew will face great days like Pentecost and challenging days like the crucifixion, but there is never an indication they regretted following the Lord. Finally, anything we love more than the Lord will get between us and Him. We must be willing to give up anything that would keep us from Him.

Today I will...consider what I am tempted to put before the Lord.