

## The Story of Jesus

### Part 2: What is My Life's Story?

Mark 1:14-20 - [watch online](#)

#### Summary:

You have a story you were created to live. A story this world needs you to live. But so often we miss it b/c we either don't know what the story is really about, how to live it out, or don't even know we have a story. But when we discover what the Story of Jesus is really about we discover what our own story is really about.

#### Main Points:

[01:20] Good stories give us hope that we can experience more than a usual life.

[02:09] When we join the Story of Jesus we find our role in the greatest story ever written.

[04:29] Belief is choosing to trust that someone or something is trustworthy

[09:45] When we are willing to trust Jesus he gives us the ability to follow him.

[11:45] Jesus is still inviting us into his story

[12:35] To play our role in the Story of Jesus we have to "leave everything" and follow Jesus.

[13:55] Just like any great story... following Jesus is a journey

[15:36] Jesus' invitation demands a definite and conscious response.

[17:35] No decision eventually becomes a decision to say no.

[18:05] The invitation to follow Jesus is the invitation to experience true life.

[15:50] **Invitation:** ASK- What is my response to Jesus' invitation and why?

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Name some of your favorite stories. What do you think makes you connect with them?
2. Jon said, "Belief is choosing to trust that someone or something is trustworthy." How would you define belief?
3. Read Mark 1:14-20. What stands out to you? Put yourself in the characters' shoes... Jesus, the fishermen, and Zebedee. What would be your thoughts/feelings?
4. What could "leaving everything to follow Jesus" look like for you?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

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#### Transcript:

**INTRO:** You have a story you were created to live. A story this world needs you to live. But so often we miss it b/c we either don't know what the story is really about, how to live it out, or even that we have a story.

But when we discover what the Story of Jesus is really about we discover what our own story is really about.

So let's talk about it together.

**WE:** Humans have always loved good stories. Especially stories that follow that Hero's Journey Narrative...

The Epic of Gilgamesh... Homer's Odyssey... Frodo Baggins... Luke Skywalker... Harry Potter... Link in Legend of Zelda

- Average person who through adversity and bravery transforms and reaches some kind of ultimate goal.

These stories capture our imaginations of what our life could be, who *WE* could be...

We can't help but see ourselves in the story... for just a little while our lives become an adventure, we become more than just the farmers, workers, teachers, lawyers, students, parents that we have to be every other day.

**Good stories give us hope that we can experience more than a usual life.**

But then we close the book, the movie is over and we have to get back to "real life" ... Monday comes and it's back to the grind, those TPS reports won't get themselves on your boss's desk, someone has to clean that toilet, those bills need to be paid, the groceries need to be bought...

But what if we didn't have to just wish, dream, and imagine... what if we really could live stories that not only rise above the usual but transform even our most mundane moments into chapters that add to the storyline of something bigger and better?

We can.

It's why we are taking the time to go through the NT book of Mark and immerse ourselves in the story of Jesus.

B/c... **When we join the Story of Jesus we find our role in the greatest story ever written.**

I know it sounds like I'm overselling it... but it has happened to millions of people (it happened to me) and it started 1 day 2000 yrs ago w/ 4 fishermen...

**GOD:** Last time, we looked at how Mark showed Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to come and restore his people to himself... to offer all of humanity a new beginning through him...

**V. 14-15** Something is about to happen... a new chapter in the story of humanity is beginning... through me.

The KoG... God's revolution on earth has begun. God is writing a new story for humanity... the weak will be strong, the last will be first, our separation from God will turn into God personally living in and through us.

And to join this story Repent and Believe...

Repent... Not just feel bad and stop doing some sins

- Change our allegiance from ourselves to God. Allow God to transform how we view ourselves, others, world, and him.

And believe the Good News... God sees you, loves you, has come to restore and rescue you.

*Believe:* Often we see it as... Some people just have belief/faith others don't or can't... Zap! Now you have faith.

Or we see it as choosing to accept something no matter what the facts say... That's dumb.

That's actually called DELUSIONAL...

Jesus (and Mark) is inviting the people then, and all of us now, to make an educated decision/choice.

"Listen to my Good News... look at me and how I live... what I do... what I say... Can you trust that I am who I say I am and will do what I say will do? Do you trust that I am trustworthy or not..."

### **Belief is choosing to trust that someone or something is trustworthy**

- We do it all the time... Airplanes/water not poisoned/exhale believing that your next breath will come in

And then Mark shows us what that choice looks like and even requires... while introducing us to some of the main supporting characters in this story...

### **V. 16-20** (Zebedee sitting in boat... eyewitness detail)

Jesus has just announced the culmination of God's story w/ humanity is about to take place... and what happens next?

We *expect* some big event... him going to the capitol to set up his government... going to all the leaders of the people and getting them on his side and ready for a new kingdom...

Instead, we see Jesus is taking a walk on the beach. Hanging out in a fishing village, collecting his 1st inner circle of followers...

### **See again a main theme in book- The KoG rarely looks like what we expect it to look like.**

The way Mark writes this scene it seems like Jesus just shows up and out of the blue calls these guys and they are like, "Oh Ok stranger. Yeah let me leave everything and start walking around w/ you and be one of your main guys."

From other accounts of Jesus' life (different angles)... seems this isn't their 1st interaction.

Andrew was follower of JB. Most likely at Jesus' baptism. Andrew had met with and talked w/ Jesus, and introduced his brother Simon/Peter to Jesus... They had heard his claims to be bringing in the KoG.

So, when Jesus told them to follow him he was inviting them to make a decision about his claim... do they choose to repent and believe?

Will they choose to trust Jesus really is bringing the KoG? And are they willing to join the story?

- To dedicate their lives to him, his teaching, his mission and kingdom?

"Follow me"

- Not just come listen to me for a bit/come to my bible study
- But to actually learn from me/learn to do what I do/come be 1 of my main guys in this new kingdom that is coming.

Must have been a shock to these guys... they didn't wake up that morning thinking they were going to completely change their lives and become part of God's grand story for humanity.

They are in the middle of doing what they have always done... what their fathers/grandfathers/great-grandfathers had always done... fishing.

These types of business weren't just passed on through generations they were passed on through centuries... this is what their family did. This is who they are. They are fishermen. That's their story. No other options.

Day in and day out: fish, clean nets, fish, clean nets...

And they must be thinking... I've heard this guy talk about how he's bringing the KoG and that sounds great... BUT

- I'm no religious scholar / not connected/important
- This type of thing doesn't happen to people like me...
- My story is just about catching enough fish to get by, hoping my kids grow healthy enough to fish w/ me, and hopefully my wife likes me enough to...

"I know this story. I'm comfortable in this story. I've been trained for this story... I don't know anything about this KoG stuff."

But Jesus doesn't even let them voice any of those concerns b/c in the next breath he lays it all out...

"Follow me... and I will show you how to fish for people." Other Translations "I will make you fishers of people."

"Of course you don't *know* anything... but I don't care. If you are willing to trust me and follow me I will show you how to play your role in a new story, in THE story. Follow me and I will transform your story."

**When we are willing to trust Jesus, he gives us the ability to follow him.**

Jesus assumes responsibility for them... as long as they are willing, he will make them who they need to be in order to play their part.

And what do these guys (most likely mid-late teens) do?

Left their nets *at once*.

- Not just leaving belongings
- They are leaving their security, livelihood, family connections (dad sitting in the boat), family history/traditions, their dreams of whatever their future looked like.

It seems harsh that Jesus would ask them to completely give up all their ties, what they and their families had worked for... That's a lot to sacrifice.

- But in reality it's like inviting a kid who's been eating mud pies in the backyard to come inside and eat a huge slice of grandma's delicious apple pie.
- No matter how good and fun those mud pies are... they aren't going to give you real life and joy.

Jesus is telling them: “Yes, you’ll give up what you’re used to... but I’m inviting you to something so much more.”

“God is writing a new story... God’s revolution is on the move... and I’m inviting you into it!”

So they choose to trust Jesus... they leave everything... put their futures, careers, families in Jesus’ hands and they choose to follow him.

And not only were their stories changed forever... The story of humanity was changed forever.

We are here talking about Jesus b/c these inexperienced fishermen said yes to Jesus’ invitation to follow him.

**WE:** So why does Mark take the time to write this account... why the details? Why not get on to the good stuff? Miracles, healings, demons, and stuff?

It underlines the whole point of why he wrote this account... Jesus has never stopped inviting people into God’s story... **Jesus is still inviting us into his story**

Jesus is still calling... “repent and believe. Leave everything and follow me. And I will show you what your story can really be... I will show you a story of true real full life.”

What would have happened to Simon, Andrew, James, and John if they had said no?

**NOTHING.** They would have kept on fishing. Doing the same thing every day that their ancestors had done everyday.

They would have died unknown w/ nothing to show for their efforts but passing on the same life to their descendents.

We are invited to experience a life and story so much more than we can imagine and pass on to our kids something more than just living to make a little more...

But... to discover our true story we have to let go of the story we’ve been trying to write for ourselves...

Just like these 4 disciples, **to play our role in the Story of Jesus we have to “leave everything” and follow Jesus.**

What would it look like for us to leave everything? Everyone is different but...

- It might mean letting go of some of our dreams for the future
- Letting go of how we view success
- Letting go of our personal agendas
- Our desire to be right... or desire to make sure others know they are wrong.
- Trying to decide what someone else should “leave” for Jesus
- Leaving the identities we’ve built for ourselves...
  - Politics / Socio-economic status / Even culture
- And yes, for some, leaving everything will actually mean leaving everything... family/career/security to follow wherever He leads

You might be thinking, just like these 4 guys probably did... 'But I don't know anything'

- I don't know bible verses/stories/songs we sing/how to talk to anyone about Jesus
- Shoot... I haven't even read the entire book of Mark... Neither had Simon-Andrew-James-John!

### **Just like any great story... following Jesus is a journey**

Just like we grow in our abilities in sports/music/baking/reading... any art...

The more time we spend practicing... spend time w/ Jesus and his people... doing the things he did... the more we become like him and the more our story becomes aligned w/ his. (Art of Following Jesus Circle)

Yes you'll mess up, you'll get it wrong...the goal in any art or journey, isn't *perfection*... and Jesus doesn't quit on his people

- He has taken responsibility to train his disciples in his perfect timing and way.

So be patient and keep following.

**SIDE NOTE:** Which is why we need to be very very wary of trying to force people to meet our standards and timelines. Who are we to tell someone else's follower what we think their story should look like?

**YOU:** God is on the move... his revolution is still continuing. Breaking down the old kingdom of pride, hurt, pain, injustice and bringing his new kingdom of love, joy, peace...

He is inviting each and every 1 of us to join our story to his... He says to each of us every day... Follow me and I will make you who you were always meant to be.

### **Jesus' invitation demands a definite and conscious response.**

#### **ASK: What is my response to Jesus' invitation and why?**

Three legitimate responses...

##### **1. YES!**

If it's your 1st time: Tell him.... Let us know... Let's talk about baptism.

... Or...

again/Everyday: Show me what my role looks like today/in this situation/relationship

**2. NO:** That's fair... just 1 question: are you rejecting Jesus? Or what those who claim to follow him have made him look like?

So much of what many of us think Jesus is about and for only comes from people w/ their own agendas who know nothing about the true Jesus.

Many of the things that make us say no to following Jesus are the same things Jesus would say no to.

##### **3. I'm still investigating.**

That's awesome. Jesus is patient. Stick w/ us. Explore more of this story of Jesus... but know at some point a decision will have to be made... **No decision eventually becomes a decision to say no.**

**WE:** I believe we love good stories b/c it awakens a God-given desire to be part of the world's true story. To join the story of our creator and king who knows us and fights for us.

A hero king who invites us to leave behind whatever we were told our stories are "supposed" to be, and to join our lives to his story.

A story that brings life, purpose, and meaning to every moment.

**The invitation to follow Jesus is the invitation to experience true life.**

So what does that story look like and can we really trust that Jesus can give it to us?

Come back and find out. Next time: Mark 1:21-39. Read. What stands out?