

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LESSON #2

Title: It Begins

Scriptures: Mark 1:14-20; Mark 1:21-45; Mark 2:1-11

Focus Scripture: *Mark 1:15* "At last the time has come!" Jesus announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe this Good News!"

Food for Thought: *What would you say was a life-changing event in your life, and why.*

R.O.M.O. (Review) Last week we experienced the preparation for Jesus' ministry, Jesus' first public event, his baptism, and we went with him into the wilderness, where he passed his test with Temptation. **(Overview)** Today we hear his message, watch him choose the first of his disciples, and begin his public ministry. **(Motivation)** We expect the Holy Spirit to help us really see and hear Jesus today, **(Outcome)** and we will become more aware of the Kingdom of God all around us.

Vocabulary Definitions:

Gospel: *literally "Good News"*

Repent: (Greek: μετανοεω, me-ta-no-é-o) *literally - to think differently, to reconsider.*

Disciple *This word (Hebrew: תלמיד talmid) stresses the relationship between rabbi (teacher or master) and disciple (student). The Hebrew term means a "deacon/servant of the rabbis." Serving is essentially the first stage of discipleship. The object of discipleship is to follow, emulate, copy, duplicate, and replicate your rabbi, all while serving him. In turn, the duties of the rabbi are first of all to teach Torah, and train his disciples to emulate him and even surpass himself in knowledge and practice of the Torah. Discipleship creates a chain and a continuum that insures that the next generations will continue to be related to and influenced by the Torah.*

Sabbath: *The seventh day of the week (sundown Friday to sundown Saturday) was meant for rest and worship. No work was to be done on this day.*

Synagogue: *The place where Jews gather for instruction and worship. (Not to be confused with the Jerusalem temple)*

Tax Collectors: *Considered as traitors and thieves, they were Jewish men who collected taxes for the Roman government. Their general practice was to collect more than was necessary, pay what was due and pocket the rest.*

Priests: *Serving at the Jewish temple in Jerusalem (not in synagogues), priests took in offerings of animals and grains (which were sacrificed by fire) and money, for payment for sins and for declaration of healing from illnesses that were considered unclean.*

Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context: *After Jesus' baptism and time in the wilderness (preparations), he travels to the Sea of Galilee. His first job is to choose disciples. A disciple was a*

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Jew who desired to follow one particular rabbi (teacher). Disciples chose the Rabbi, however, Jesus chose his disciples, which went against convention. To be accepted as a disciple, a man had to prove his worthiness, then would follow everywhere the rabbi lived, ate and taught, in order to become just like the rabbi. These instructions are taken very seriously by the Jewish community from the first century A.D. and in some circles even until this day. After choosing four disciples, Jesus begins an intense preaching and healing ministry, drawing great crowds of the sick, the lame, the curious, and the political. People are astonished at his spiritual authority and supernatural abilities.

PRAYER: *Holy Spirit, we welcome you to stir up our hearts and minds to know Jesus, to begin to understand the great love of God. Show us the goodness, nobleness, and justice of your character.*

STUDY:

First Reading: Mark 1:14-20

- HEAD: Read aloud, paying attention to the surroundings
 1. YOU ARE THERE: Where are you and what are your 5 senses be experiencing?
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- HEART: Read out loud paying attention to Jesus
 1. What does Jesus say is the Gospel/Good News? (see Luke 4:16-21)
 2. What kind of repentance does Jesus proclaim?
 3. What is Jesus passionate about?
 4. What (about Jesus' character) might make fishermen immediately follow Jesus?
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Second Reading: Mark 1:21-45

- HEAD: Read out loud, paying attention to the surroundings
 1. YOU ARE THERE: Where are you and what are your 5 senses be experiencing?
 2. How many people do you think are coming to see him?
 3. Where are the different places he's healing people?
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- HEART: Read out loud (in sections), paying attention to Jesus, leaving moments for thought & writing notes
 1. What is important to Jesus in these stories?
 2. How is Jesus responding to all the attention?
 3. How are people responding to him?
 4. What impresses you about Jesus' character?

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Third Reading: Mark 2:1-11

- HEAD: Read out loud, paying attention to the surroundings
 1. YOU ARE THERE: Where are you and what are your 5 senses be experiencing?
 2. What is the atmosphere in the room (“at home” v.1)
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- HEART: Read out loud, paying attention to Jesus
 1. What is important to Jesus in this passage?
 2. How are people responding to him?
 3. How is Jesus responding to the crowd/scribes?
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- HANDS: Silently look over our readings, asking God to reveal something new to you.
 1. What impresses you about Jesus' character in today's lesson?
 2. What makes you wonder in these passages?
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IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE:

A. Scriptures (Parallel Gospel Accounts)

Matthew 4:18-25; 7:28-29; 8:14-17

Luke 4:31-44

B. Suggested Reference Materials

Beautiful Outlaw by John Eldredge

The Jesus I Never Knew by Philip Yancey.

Next Week:

"Bull's Eye" – and the Reaction

Scriptures:

Mark 2 - Mark 3:6