

**SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
**For the Week of September 7, 2014**

**SERMON: “The 2020 Vision, Year 2”**

**TEXT: Mark 1:14-18**

**PREACHER: Matt Ryman**

1. If you are already a follower of Jesus, what did it look like for you to become a Christian? Did you have to stop doing anything to follow him, like how the fishermen left their jobs to follow Jesus? In other words, how did your life change when you decided to follow Christ?
2. In v.14, what is the good news? How would you share it with an unbeliever?
3. What “time” is Jesus referring to in vs. 15 when he announces, “The time is fulfilled”?
4. What is meant by the “kingdom of God” (vs. 15)? In what sense is the kingdom of God a present reality and in what sense is it yet future?
5. In v.17, Jesus tells fishermen that he will make them "fishers of men". What would he say to people in other jobs (perhaps a farmer, a pilot, a plumber or a postman, etc.) in America? Have fun with this!
6. Notice that Mark’s story of Jesus’ ministry begins in Galilee. Galilee was in the far north section of Palestine, as many as 100 miles from the temple and the holy city of Jerusalem. The population of Galilee consisted of both Jews and pagans. The prophet Isaiah called the region “Galilee of the Gentiles (or nations)” (Isaiah 9:1). Judeans considered Galileans “country cousins,” lacking Jewish sophistication and religious purity. Even the accent of Galileans was mocked by Jews in the south. What do these facts about Galilee say about the nature of Jesus’ mission in the world?
7. Why do you think Mark placed Jesus’ announcement of the kingdom before Jesus’ call to the disciples to follow him?
8. What was it about Jesus that compelled busy, burly fishermen like Peter, Andrew, James, and John to leave their nets and follow him?

9. At the end of vs. 15, Jesus literally says, "Keep (or be) repenting, keep (or be) believing the gospel." How does this affect your view of conversion? How does this affect your evangelism?
10. What is the mission to which Jesus calls his followers? See Matthew 28:18-20 in addition to this passage.
11. What were the risks and costs involved in the disciples' decision to leave their nets and follow Jesus? What are you willing to lose to follow him wholeheartedly? Does this mean you need to leave your "regular" job? Does Jesus only call some people to be on mission? Discuss.
12. When you think about Jesus' authority as king (vs. 15), does it encourage you to be a fisher of men? Why or why not?
13. When Jesus calls his disciples, he doesn't just say "Believe in me, pray, read your Bible and go to church." He calls them to action when he says "Follow me" and he leads them on Spirit-empowered mission. What fears or other obstacles stand in your way of saying "Yes" to following Jesus in mission?

### **Commentary**

3. Events in past times, especially God's acts of salvation for his people, reached their climax in this time of salvation through Jesus (Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible, p.1601).
4. Jesus' incarnation (his coming down to live as a sinless man among us) was the beginning of the "kingdom of God" on Earth, as it is in heaven. Now, he is ruling at the right hand of God the Father in his resurrected, glorified body. The Kingdom of God will be fulfilled when Jesus returns, renewing the heavens and the earth, destroying Satan, sin and death forever. Those who put their faith and hope in Jesus, trusting him with their lives, will rule with him in that renewed creation. Will you be there?
6. Jesus began his ministry with the Galileans, who were often rejected, mocked and marginalized by the people in Jerusalem. Jesus loves the poor, the weak, the culturally shamed people and reaches out to them, saving them. He still does this today through the Holy Spirit. The vast majority of Christians around the world are poor and not accepted by their culture. 1 Corinthians 1 tells us that the message of the cross is foolish to the "worldly wise" people, but to the ones being saved, it is the power of God.
7. In the verses prior to this passage, you can see John proclaiming the coming of the Messiah, calling people to repent. Once Jesus was baptized and tempted in the desert, his ministry begins by proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom, calling people to repent and believe Him. They should follow him not just because he was a rabbi, but because he was

the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. The kingdom coming from heaven to earth is a major part of the good news, in other words, the gospel.

9. The whole gospel, to whole people over the whole world. Part of living out the gospel is to be constantly looking at our own hearts and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, repenting of that sin and living in the freedom of forgiveness. We shouldn't be converted and then forget about the gospel. The gospel, by the power of the Holy Spirit, speaks into every area of life!
10. **BE ON MISSION FOR JESUS.** We want to see gospel transformation in our own lives, which will lead us to gospel demonstration and gospel proclamation, which will lead to gospel multiplication among our neighbors and the nations! This had better get you excited!!
11. All Christians are called to be on mission with Jesus. Every Christian is a co-missionary with Jesus, whether we work for CRU, Wycliffe, Siemens or Disney. God calls us to be where we are for His purposes, we just need to align our purposes with his.