

Proof #6 Jesus Chooses and Calls His Disciples
Mark 1:16-20

I. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

A. The Christ

1. God's appointed, anointed Savior
2. God's provision for the peril presented by sin
 - a. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - b. All who sin are subject to God's judgment and wrath
 - c. All who sin stand in need of a Savior
 - d. Jesus is the Savior sent by God to deliver us
 - (1) from sin and guilt and shame
 - (2) from the eternal consequences of sin: death

B. Mark's Gospel Witnesses to the Fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

1. Proof #6 Jesus Chooses and Calls His Disciples **Mark 1:16-20**
2. Five (5) Strategies Christ Engages In Choosing His Disciples

II. Five Strategies Christ Engages in Choosing His Disciples

A. Jesus steps into the lives of those He chooses right where they are.

1. "Passing along, he saw . . . he said . . . they followed."
 - a. Previous contact described in other gospels
 - b. Deliberate engagement
2. No experience necessary: Jesus will meet you where you are
 - a. These disciples: fishing
 - b. Woman caught in adultery: shame
 - c. Nicodemus: curiosity
 - d. Thief on the cross: most desperate moment of his life
3. Jesus does not ask His disciples to fix their lives and come to Him, He calls them to Him to fix their lives!

B. Jesus chooses His disciples

1. "Now Hiring" - not
 - a. No ads in the paper
 - b. No huge marketing campaign
 - c. No push to persuade anyone to purchase His brand rather than another
2. Unusual -
 - a. In the ancient Jewish world, rabbis never recruited students.
 - b. Students applied to study with certain rabbis
 - c. Essentially, students chose the teacher
 - d. In this instance the teacher chooses the students
 - e. "Jesus handpicked His students."
3. You did not choose me, but I chose you.
 - a. Jesus' own testimony
 - (1) **John 15:16 (ESV) *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the***

Father in my name, he may give it to you.

(2) **John 15:19 (ESV)** *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

(3) The decision for discipleship rests on the Christ!

b. The burden of discipleship also rests on Christ!

(1) **Galatians 2:20 (ESV)** *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

(2) **Philippians 4:12-13 (ESV)** ¹² *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.* ¹³ *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

c. Because the Christ, the Son of God chooses His disciples, they can live with confidence He will not renege on His choice!

C. Jesus calls His disciples to a life of study and service focused on the Master

1. Diligently memorize, understand, apply, and teach the message of the Master.
2. Devotedly care for the daily needs and requirements of the Master
 - a. Disciples sought out lodging and prepared for the Passover meal
 - b. Disciples went into the towns to buy food
 - c. The disciples passed out the loaves and fishes and gathered the remnants
3. What do I do when I'm bored? (Stay-at-home reality)
 - a. Study - spend time becoming more intimately familiar with Jesus
 - b. Serve - spend time assisting others to become more intimately familiar with Jesus

D. Jesus Christ calls His disciples to the inescapable choice to leave all and follow

1. Leave
 - a. lucrative business
 - b. Leave beloved family
 - c. Leave personal satisfaction, goals, and comforts
 - d. Leave social status
2. Take up your cross daily and follow me
 - a. **Luke 9:23 (ESV)** *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*
 - b. **Luke 14:26 (ESV)** *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.*
 - (1) Everything, good or bad, that might diminish or compete

with your heart affection for Jesus must be set aside.

- (2) Your daily commitment to die to self and follow Jesus through death to new life

E. The call of Christ to discipleship is always, also the call of Christ to disciple-making.

1. Fishers of men = casting the net to bring in the fish destined to be caught
 - a. No sense of persuading the fish to jump into the boat
 - (1) No lure
 - (2) No bait
 - b. Cast the net: preach the gospel/witness to Christ
2. Nature of the Call
 - a. “The immediate function of those called to be fishers of men is to accompany Jesus as witnesses to the proclamation of the nearness of the kingdom and the necessity for men to turn to God through radical repentance.”
 - b. “The ultimate function will be to confront men with God’s decisive action, which to faith has the character of salvation, but to unbelief has the character of judgment.”
 - (1) **2 Corinthians 2:15-17 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?*
3. Jesus exemplifies in Himself the heart and mission to which He calls His disciples.
 - a. He does what He sees the Father do.
 - (1) The Father chooses the Christ for the mission of salvation
 - (2) The Christ chooses His disciples for the mission of furthering the Father’s mission
 - b. He “fishes” for His disciples by inviting them to discipleship,
 - (1) making Him God’s Fisher of men
 - (2) and then sets before them the mission to follow Him, taking up His role as God’s fishers of men in the world.
4. NOTE: Jesus does not promise peace or prosperity as a means of persuading the unwilling to willingly accept His invitation and exchange their personal freedoms for spiritual faithfulness.
 - a. He offers them instead privileged purpose: that God would personally use them to accomplish His mission in the world.
 - b. God is gathering men and women and boys and girls to Himself in view of the forthcoming coming judgment (the image of God as fisher of men in the OT) and these will be privileged with the purpose of joining in this gracious, compassionate, saving work of the sovereign God.
 - c. “He called them to a task wherein they could only win something for themselves by giving their all to Him and to others.” (Barclay)

III. The Strategies Jesus Employs Testify to His Identity as the Christ.

A. Who else?

1. Who would command such authority and deserve such radical acceptance and obedience, given James' and John's ties to their present situation, but the Christ, the Son of God.
2. Who would choose rather than wait to be chosen?
3. Who would prescribe a life purpose or dictate a life focus, since those privileges ultimately belong to our Creator God alone?

B. Christ is choosing, Christ is calling

1. It's time to get out of the boat.
2. It's time to get on the path of study and service.
3. It's time to cast the net and become fishers of men.
 - a. What does God want me to do with my life?
 - b. Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
 - c. **Heed the call. Follow Jesus.**