

Recap of 2/12/23 message by Pastor Chris (Mark 1:14-20)

- *The call and commission of believers commences the journey of discipleship. Jesus calls Simon Peter and Andrew and they left their nets and followed Him. Likewise, James and John are called and they leave their father in the boat and follow Jesus. The question that we must ask ourselves is are we following Jesus? He uses the phrase "come after me," which would have been a phrase understood within Jewish culture to mean "follow after me as a disciple." Our lives from the moment we repent and believe in the Gospel should be lives that are characterized by obedience to Jesus as we grow more and more Christlike. Are we following Jesus?*

- *The journey of discipleship involves sacrifice and suffering. John the Baptist is "handed over," or "betrayed" (1:14). The word for this is paradidomi and it occurs 17 more times in the Gospel of Mark referring to Jesus and the disciples being handed over. Mark uses such similar language here in the first call of the disciples and in chapter 8 at Jesus first prediction of His passion - the two events are linked. Sacrifice and suffering are on the journey of discipleship. Jesus states, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me" (Mark 8:34). As we follow after Jesus, we need to remember the journey of discipleship leads to glorification in Christ, but it passes through the cross. Self-denial and following after Jesus in every area of our lives is our charge.*

- *What areas have you sidelined yourself? What areas are you no longer obediently following Jesus? His grace is sufficient for you. Let us take up our crosses and walk together following after Jesus.*