

A BRAND NEW LIFE
Mark 1:14-20

I. AS YOU WISH

- A. *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him." (1:17-18)*
- B. Taking a risk.
 - 1. "In these few verses, Jesus' role as an authoritative, compelling, charismatic preacher is defined; the kernel of the gospel message is expressed; and drop-everything-discipleship ... is described."
 - 2. They abandoned their nets, their boats, and their livelihood.
 - 3. They are taking a risk by following a leader whose future is uncharted, uncertain, and unpredictable.
- C. Conductors and Resisters.
 - 1. C.S. Lewis wrote that the day is coming when every soul will adopt one of two postures before God: either joyful surrender or defiant separation.
 - 2. One day every person will say either "Thy will be done" or "My will be done."
 - 3. The conductor's prayer is, "As you wish." The resisters prayer is, "Leave me alone." Each prayer is answered.

II. SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

- A. Intellectual Pathway.
 - 1. People on the intellectual pathway draw close to God as they learn more about him.
 - 2. The danger in his pathway is becoming all head and no heart.
- B. Relational Pathway.
 - 1. People who follow this pathway feel God's presence through significant relationships.
 - 2. One danger is to become too dependent upon others.
- C. Serving Pathway.
 - 1. God's presence is felt when they are helping others.
 - 2. A danger here is the temptation to resent others who are not serving as much as they are.
- D. Worship Pathway.
 - 1. Somehow in worship your heart opens up and you come alive.
 - 2. One danger is to continually look for the next "worship high."
- E. Contemplative Pathway.
 - 1. Reflection and solitude are the places where you encounter God.
 - 2. The danger here is to retreat into your inner world when friends or work or society disappoint you.
- F. Creation Pathway
 - 1. They connect with God through the world God made.
 - 2. People on this pathway should guard against using it as an escape.

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Brain Haslop, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Vicki Page, Mildred Sentell, Doris Swafford, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Carol Webb, Lucille Alwerdt, Ray Billings, Dorothy Burns, Gene Burs, Patti Chou, Betty Crenshaw, Diane Donner, Ed Gatlin, Charles Hamilton, Jean Hansford, Kristi Jackson, Charles Jamison, Joyce Kuhl, Rev. Jerry Lynch, Judy Malaquias, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Moody Palmer, Betty Scott, Marian Wiehle, our troops ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to *Dot Frazier* and family in the loss of her son, *Terry Hooper*, who died on Monday, January 16, to *Jim Ford* and family in the death of his grandfather, *James Wallace Ford*, on Friday, January 13, and to *Luise Jones* and family in the death of her mother, *Hedwig Summerer*, on Friday, January 6.

PASTORAL PRAYER

O loving God, you have given us the pulse of life, and along with it a mind that makes us yearn for meaning, and here in worship we come looking for just that. Some of us have once had a clear sense of who we are and what our purpose is, but we have misplaced it. Some of us have never known that feeling, and we wish we had. Some of us live so automatically from day to day that we hardly know there is purpose beyond just getting through one more day.

So we come less than whole, all of us do, and we pray for a feeling of completeness as we worship. Don't let us leave here today without having felt a sense of your love, without having remembered that you forgive our stumbling efforts if we will just accept that forgiveness. Help us make use of this special day of renewal that you give us weekly. Help us to find time to be still, and know that you are God, and knowing that, rise up from this place to live glad and strong lives. This we pray in the name of one who did just that, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."

And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending their nets. And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

January 29	<i>Powerful Preaching</i>	Mark 1:21-28
February 5	<i>Driving Out Demons</i>	Mark 1:29-39
February 12	<i>Running the Race</i>	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
February 19	<i>Yes and No</i>	2 Corinthians 1:18-22
February 26	<i>It's Good to Be Here</i>	Mark 9:2-9

On the Radio:

January 29	<i>Martha Moments</i>	Luke 10:38-42
February 5	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i>	Psalms 23:1-3
February 12	<i>Walking Through the Valley</i>	Psalms 23:4-6
February 19	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 1)</i>	Matthew 6:9-13
February 26	<i>The Lord's Prayer (Part 2)</i>	Matthew 6:9-13