



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Following Jesus, Fishing with Jesus

Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

Scriptures: Mark 1:16-20

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we’ll continue our series through the Gospel of Mark as we explore what it truly means to follow Jesus—and to fish with Him. At the heart of this message is the call to discipleship. Together, we’ll look at two key aspects of what it means to live in genuine relationship with Jesus.

Sermon Questions:

1. We live in a world obsessed with following. Everyday we are asked to follow people. Who are you following (who has the most influence in your life)? Are the people/groups you are following leading you toward God?
2. Jesus said, “Come follow me.” There’s a big difference between believing in Jesus and following Jesus. We can believe a lot of things about Jesus and never orient our lives around following Jesus. Discipleship is a way of life oriented around Jesus (our relationships, finances, decisions, sexuality, etc.). Another word for this is an apprentice. Apprenticeship has 3 markers: closeness to the teacher, imitation of their way, and transformation over time. Which of these markers do you most struggle with and how would you like to grow in your apprenticeship to Jesus?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “I will send you out to fish for people?” and what does that practically look like?

Pastor Rich shared illustrations of translating this saying to other occupations like a nurse who would be sent out to be a nurse for people’s souls. What does it mean to be a fisher of people? To live in a way that others are drawn into Jesus and his kingdom. Fishing requires attentiveness, patience and courage.

4. The fishermen Jesus called to come follow him left “at once” and “without delay.” Where do you have hesitation in following Jesus? Where do you sense Jesus inviting you to take immediate action in what he is calling you to do?