

January 21, 2018
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 1:14-20

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The "kingdom of God" was loaded with meaning for the people of the day. The earliest traditions would identify the people of Israel as the kingdom of God. God was understood as the true ruler of the people. The king ruled only as a representative of God. The failure of this system led many to put their hope in some future intervention by God, rather than hoping for a faithful ruler who would reestablish the kingdom of God. Jesus' proclamation states simply that "now is the time" when the hoped-for future kingdom of God has arrived and the time for hoping is over. The "time of fulfillment has arrived" would be a message that stirred people deeply. Jesus' proclamation is a bold statement that would have also attracted the attention of the political and religious leaders who would have found such comments a threat.

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Reflection Questions:

1. Are there areas in your own life where you have hoped for change for many years?

2. What do you think it was like for the Jews to sustain their hope in a Messiah for generations?
3. Upon the arrest of John, what do you think are some of things that Jesus thought about before he decided to continue to proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom?
4. Why do you think Andrew, Peter, John and James would have made good disciples?
5. In Jesus' day there were many who admired him, his teaching, and the way he lived his life, and some became his followers. Are there places in your life where you are more admirer than follower?
6. Imagine yourself in the boat with James and John. What would be going through your mind as you watch them leave the nets, get out of the boat, and begin to walk away with Jesus?
7. Can you also imagine that you are again in the boat and Jesus also invites you to come join him? What goes through your mind and you consider Jesus' invitation?
8. Can you talk with God about your desire to be one of his disciples, about whatever keeps you from responding to God as fully as you would like, or about
9. some other facet of this gospel that caught your attention?

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When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,

he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

Teach me your ways, O Lord., make your ways known to me; teach me your paths,

guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.
Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.
Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way.

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out.
From now on, let those having wives act as not having them,
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The "kingdom of God" was loaded with meaning for the people of the day. The earliest traditions would identify the people of Israel as the kingdom of God. God was understood as the true ruler of the people. The king ruled only as a representative of God. The failure of this system led many to put their hope in some future intervention by God, rather than hoping for a faithful ruler who would reestablish the kingdom of God. Jesus' proclamation states simply that "now is the time" when the hoped-for future kingdom of God has arrived and the time for hoping is over. The "time of fulfillment has arrived" would be a message that stirred people deeply. Jesus' proclamation is a bold statement that would have also attracted the attention of the political and religious leaders who would have found such comments a threat.

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