

## **Mark 1:16-20; Mark 2:13-17—The Calling**

### **I. The Ones Called**

- a. 4 fisherman—reputation of being vulgar
- b. 1 Tax Collector—hated by other Jews; a sellout to his people
  - i. Who is Levi son of Alphaeus?
    - 1. Possibly Matthew, James son of Alphaeus or his brother, or another person not part of the 12
- c. \*Status and religious background are NOT factors in Jesus' choosing\*

### **II. The Calling**

- a. *Follow me*
  - i. Prophets did not call on people to follow them but to follow God
  - ii. Jesus' making a bold claim about himself
- b. Why did these guys follow Jesus? (2 Peter 1:16)
- c. A significant break from one's past
  - i. A tax collector who breaks from his post can never return; Levi was making a decision that had permanent repercussions
  - ii. Fisherman were breaking from their livelihood and what they knew
- d. Jesus' call on us is a call to sacrifice; it may have permanent consequences
  - i. Jesus' call on your life may: cause you to repent from ungodly past, seek new priorities, maybe even certain breaks from family, friends, or vocation

### **III. This Mission**

- a. Jesus called his followers to something new
  - i. Fishers of men
  - ii. Levi inviting his friends to meet Jesus
- b. We are called out of our old lives into new (more meaningful) lives.
- c. Jesus calls us to carry out his ministry of reaching others.

### **IV. The Controversy**

- a. Religious authorities began to question Jesus' actions
- b. Mark 2 begins to display the tension between Jesus and religious authorities
- c. Not call the righteous... irony- those who think they are righteous; Jesus calls sinners who admit their need for God's mercy

### **V. The Heart of the Savior (So what?)**

- a. Jesus has a heart for all; you are never too sinful to begin a new life in Christ.
- b. Gospel Reflected: following Jesus not earned by merit or status; but leads to transformed life
- c. Jesus was not a religious prude; people, even sinners, were attracted to him.
- d. Seek an others-focused life; don't create unnecessary barriers between you and others that hinders your chance to show them Jesus.
- e. Jesus is the embodiment of God's glory revealed to us; when you spend time with Christ you become an eyewitness to his majesty and you will be changed.
- f. Jesus Christ's holiness and grace go hand in hand; likewise, we seek to live in that tension