



# Epiphany 3 B

ARTICLE NO. 2006.131

Gospel

Responding immediately to The Call

Mark 1:14-20



Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

### Refs

Matthew 4:23  
“23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”

Matthew 9:35  
“35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

Matthew 24:14  
“14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

**Much of this tract is commentary - don't take it as Gospel. It is here to encourage meditation and study. Use your gift of discernment, to find the truth.**

Page 2

### Refs

Isaiah 61:1-4  
“1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;  
2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;  
3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.  
4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.”

### The first Apostles

Jesus removed to Capernaum to avoid being incarcerated like John the Baptist.

This is the only occurrence of the phrase *gospel of the Kingdom of God* in the NT, though the phrase *gospel of the kingdom* appears in Matthew three times. But here Mark does not explain what this gospel is all about. It obviously was not the gospel as we know it. It was perhaps the prophetic gospel of Isaiah 61:1-4.

The willingness of the men to leave home, family and job to follow Jesus is dramatic. These men must have known Jesus, and known his gospel, for which they were willing to leave completely their former life. They were the brothers Simon (son of Jonah, and later Cephas/Peter) and Andrew, and the brothers James and John. What was it he promised them? Did they think that the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy was at hand and they were to be part of it? Had these men just been biding their time until the Messiah appeared?

The encounter was a short distance from Capernaum where there was a synagogue (so, apparently not one in the fishing village).

The references to nets: *casting a net, mending their nets* might be metaphors for wasting lives in mindless activities. Jesus implies that fishing for men is a more worthwhile endeavor. Or perhaps these descriptions were to show that the Apostles were poor, uneducated men. The mention of hired servants is perhaps to imply that the sons were not needed by the father for any work. They were in any case ready to repent and to listen to the gospel for they came immediately they were called (*straightway*).

For a description of what Jesus expected of them see the commentary in the Epistle for Epiphany 3B.