Discipleship As Described by Mark
(Follow-up to Mark 1:14-20)

I. In our lesson last week I mentioned that many believe Mark is a gospel written with discipleship in mind.

II. The way Mark presents his gospel allows us to get to know Jesus as the Christ and then guides us into understanding what it means to be one of his disciples.

III. Many may make the claim to be “Christians” - Christ followers - but the gospel of Mark presents an interesting look into what it really means to be a true disciple. What it means to follow Jesus.

IV. If you remember from last weeks lesson Jesus called Andrew, Simon, James and John to follow him. He is going to make them fishers of men. The question to consider is, “Did they know what they are about to get into?”

V. Rather than moving into our next section of Scriptures I thought I would digress a bit and look at how Mark presents this view of discipleship throughout his gospel.

Trans: Mark present the character of a disciple in both a positive and negative way. Let’s consider the later first.

1. Positive Characteristics of a Disciple
   A. Disciples are willing to count the cost and leave everything to follow.
      1). They are willing to forsake the old life, Mark 1:18,20
      2). They are willing to leave profitable business, Mark 2:14
      3). They are willing to leave “everything” and follow, Mark 10:28-30
   
   B. Disciples understand the overall purpose of God’s plan
      1). They understand the “mysteries of the kingdom” Mark 4:11
      2). They are awarded this insight because of their desire to fully submit to His will.

   C. Disciples are those who immerse themselves in Kingdom work.
      1). They are “with Jesus” Mark 3:14; 6:30
      2). They go out “to preach” Mark 3:14; 6:12
      3). They have authority given to them by Christ, Mark 3:15; 6:13

Appl: One who desires to become a disciple must also desire to have these positive characteristics of a disciple.
As we are going to see being a disciple is not always easy so we must possess some strong positive characteristics.

Mark describes a true disciple as one who is will to leave everything for Christ. One who understand the purpose of God’s plan, and one who will immerse themselves into kingdom work.

**Trans:** As I said earlier, discipleship also involves hardships. These hardships can bring out the Negative characteristics of a disciple. This is our second point.

### 2. Negative Characteristics of a Disciple

A. Disciples face personal obstacles
   1). Fear, *Mark 4:40; 6:49-50*
   2). Faithlessness, *Mark 4:40*

B. Disciples struggle with selfishness
   1). Who is greater, *Mark 9:33, 34*
   2). Wanting top position in the Messianic Kingdom, *Mark 10:37*

C. Disciples have spiritual weaknesses
   1). Unable to do what Jesus told them to do, *Mark 9:17,18*
   2). Did not have powerful enough prayer life, *Mark 9:28,29*

D. Disciples sometimes abandon their Lord
   1). They scatter when the Shepherd is struck down, *Mark 14:27,50*
   2). Peter denied Jesus, *Mark 14:66-72*

**Appl:** The picture Mark paints for us is one that not only shows the positive characteristics of a disciple but also the negative.

From these passage we can see that disciples are not without fault.

Disciples are human and often times when things are difficult or not going smoothly we return to old things and old ways, which bring up negative characteristics

**Con:** As Mark present his gospel he does so with the intent of making disciples. Throughout his gospel he reveals to us that disciples have both positive and negative characteristics.

What he presents to us is a picture of what it is like being a disciple of Jesus.
   Sometimes we do what is right.
   Sometimes we mess up.

But in the end if we remain faithful God is pleased with us.