



Sunday Teaching Guide

Epiphany, Week 3

January 21, 2023

Bible Texts

- Mark 1:14-17
- John 1:43-45

Important Terms

- Epiphany: an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

Sermon Notes

- In the Christian tradition, the seasons of the church help us tell, retell, and enter the story of the promise of Jesus, the birth of Jesus, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In all of that, we discover who Jesus is and what Jesus came to do. And we find out how we've been invited not just to hear the story but to participate in it, as Jesus invited his followers to join him in his mission.
- One phrase that Jesus continually uses in his ministry is "the kingdom of God" -- he proclaims that "the kingdom is near." One way to think of it is that the kingdom of God is where God's love, justice, and mercy are breaking into this world, establishing a new reality among this one. That would have been good news that people had been waiting to hear.
- Jesus shares his good news not just with the politicians, celebrities, or influencers. He shares the good news with everyone. Jesus took this a step further by recruiting the most unlikely people to share his mission and message. Jesus wanted them to share the good news.
- And the same is true of us. We're not politicians, celebrities, or influencers either. But we have been invited by the same Jesus to experience God's love, justice, and mercy breaking into this world.
- Jesus invited the disciples to come and see, and they in turn told others to come and see. We were invited to come and see, and now we in turn tell others to come and see. Invite others to come and see what Jesus is doing in your life. Invite others to come and see what is possible with God. Invite others to see what community can look like as God teaches us to love him and love each other.

Reflection Questions

- What are some different things that might have attracted the first disciples to Jesus?
- Why might the politicians, celebrities, and influencers at the time be hesitant to follow Jesus?
- What might have been some of the things that the first disciples had left behind when they decided to follow Jesus?
- What does it mean to "fish for people"?
- What skills that the first disciples may have used in their lives as fishermen have carried over to their lives as disciples of Jesus?
- What do you think might have been some of the reactions that people gave Jesus for which people had become his first disciples?
- In what ways is the teachings of Jesus dependent upon invitations?
- Who is someone that you have considered inviting to come and see?

Prayer for the Week

- Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:6-14
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31