

Jesus calls us to be in but not of the world. Jesus calls us to be in but not of the world.

Mark 1:1-13
Water **baptism** sets us apart in our culture without removing us from it.

Mark 1:14-15
The **Gospel of the Kingdom** must be understood through the **Apostles**.

Mark 1:16-20
God **chooses the weak** of this world to demonstrate the power of His Kingdom.

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Mark 1

“14 And after John had been taken into custody, **Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God**, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Two types of evangelistic “call”

station to station

vs.14-15

person to person

vs.16-20

John 15:16

“**You did not choose Me but I chose you**, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain,”

Mark 1

“16 And as He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men. 18 And they immediately left the nets and followed Him. 19 And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.”

Mark 1

“18 And they **immediately** left the nets and followed Him. . . .

20 And **immediately** He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.”

- ✓ The other Gospels suggest that these men **know Jesus before** this call.
- ✓ Mark wants us to appreciate the **decisive break** that these men made to follow Jesus.

Mark 1

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- ✓ **Jesus asks them first to follow him (not to do something for him).**
- ✓ **Jesus will make them fishers of men (as they follow they will bear fruit).**
- ✓ They would **become** fishers of men (in time they would be like Jesus).

Mark 1

“¹⁹ And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.”

- ✓ Jesus challenges these men to leave the two areas that offer the **closest ties** to this life (vocation and family).
- ✓ Their vocation became an **avocation** (they did not stop fishing), their spiritual family took **precedent** over their biological family.

Example #1

of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

Look at the kind of people he “hand picks” to do his work.

- ✓ the cultural elite?
- ✓ the socially connected?
- ✓ the professionally trained?

1 Corinthians 1

“²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹ that no man should boast before God.”

2 Corinthians 12

“⁸ Concerning this (**thorn in the flesh**) I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for **when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

Example #2

of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

Look at the kind of ministry he calls them (us) to.

- ✓ reform the culture?
- ✓ follow the numbers?
- ✓ use the world’s power?

Matthew 28

“¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Example #3

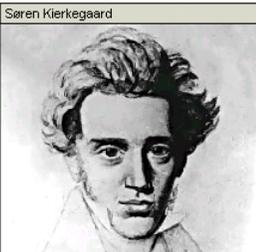
of Jesus being **IN** but not **OF** the world.

Look at the kind of relationship he calls them (us) into.

- ✓ Competition?
- ✓ Independence?
- ✓ Pride?

1 Corinthians 2

“11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, . . . 16 For *who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?* But **we have the mind of Christ.**”



Søren Kierkegaard

Stages of a relationship with Christ

religious
(faith & reconciliation)
The Savior is the attraction
It brings peace

ethical
(duty & discipline)
Virtue is the attraction
It is killed by despair

aesthetic
(pleasure & beauty)
Religion is the attraction
It is killed by boredom

What is the relationship between God's call and our faith?

Does God's call come prior to and decree our faith?

Does God's call come to those He knows will believe?

Is the relationship between God's call and our faith a mystery beyond our purview?

Is this a question that we really need to answer?

1 Corinthians 1

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 **but to those who are the called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Jesus calls us to be in but not of the world. Mark 1:16-20

1. God calls and uses people that will **mock** the world by being the **least powerful** in the world.
2. We are to find our **hope** in Christ not our position, vocation, or family.
3. We are called to make our vocation an **avocation**.

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