



# The Scrolls

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## Meeting the Messiah Follow Me

*Week 2*  
*January 12, 2025*

**Mark 1:14-20**

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### WORD STUDY

#### *Kingdom of God:*

The Kingdom of God is ushered in with the coming of Jesus Christ. It can be seen as “reign” or “realm.” God reigns over all of creation but for now sin still has its effects on all creation and humanity. Realm is suggesting location, and God’s realm is universal. Any believer in any place will enter the Kingdom of God. Colossians 1:13 reads “He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” So, all who are saved are in the Kingdom of God, but it has not yet been fully realized. We see signs and effects of it now, but in the future, it will be fully established and the benefits of being a subject in that Kingdom will be fully manifested and enjoyed. So, when is the Kingdom of God coming? The answer is now, not yet.

### I. VV. 14-15

It is remarkable that Jesus would begin His ministry in Galilee. It is not a big city but a rural area where farming and blue-collar work is done. Jerusalem was a place of unbelief and legalistic religion, but Galilee was a place where Jesus saw an opportunity for the gospel to be spread. Galilee is also where Jesus would gather His followers after His resurrection (Mark 14:28 and 16:7).

When John the Baptist was out in the wilderness, the people had to come out to him to hear the message of repentance. Now we see Jesus taking the gospel to the people. Regardless of where we may live, we are never out of reach of the love of Jesus. Whether we are in a large urban area or in a small country community, Jesus can and is willing to meet us where we are.

It appears that God had planned to start Jesus’ ministry after John the Baptist is arrested and is off the scene. The Baptist being the last prophet shows that there is not more preparation needed. What has been spoken of in times past has now become a realization in the person of Jesus Christ. The phrase “was arrested” in Greek is literally “handed over.” Mark uses this term in 9:31 referring to the Son of Man and in 13:9 as Jesus describes what will happen to some believers. The term not only describes the troubles they will face but also that God the Father is behind scenes using these troubles for His own purpose. Even the ones who were arresting Jesus, though they didn’t know it, were being used by God to carry out His plan. Even in times of persecution

## **LIFE LESSON**

**The type of Christian you are and the impact you make will depend on your fellowship and followship of Jesus Christ. Make that a priority and the results will follow.**

we can rest assured that God is involved in all of it and that it will be used for good in the long run for God's glory. (Romans 8:28)

In verse 15, we see where the promise of the coming of the Kingdom of God has begun. There is not clear definition of "the Kingdom of God has come near" but it does draw attention to the fact that God is invading history and making a way of salvation for anyone who will repent and believe. The complete coming of the Kingdom has not happened yet but we have the guarantee that it will occur because we see that it has begun and will be carried out to completion in the end times.

What is clear about the coming of the Kingdom is that it shows and imperative urgency to respond to the gospel message that Jesus is bringing, repent and believe. To repent is to turn away from our old lives and believe is to turn to Jesus alone for salvation. Each one of us must and will make this decision one way or the other. We will either accept it, leading to eternal life, or reject it, leading to eternal destruction.

## **II. VV. 16-20**

I think it is worth noting that in the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, before he performs any miracles or preaches any strong sermons, He summons four men who are at work to come into fellowship with Him. What these men need to learn and become to carry out the plans that God has for them can only be learned by following Jesus. The first thing that they need to do is to get to know Jesus Himself and only by following Jesus can one come to know Him.

The disciples did not go searching for Jesus, rather Jesus sought them out. Jesus entered their world of fishing and work to reach them and begin to disciple them. It wasn't in a church, synagogue or any other religious place. Jesus begins His relationship with His people on their grounds and then will lead them to His ground.

His call was to "Follow Me." It was not or is not an easy calling. There will be much to learn, see and do that may not always be easy or comfortable. It will not be popular amongst the religious rulers of their day and will eventually lead to extreme persecution. Jesus did not call them to do anything that He did not model

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. Thinking about John's arrest, can you remember a time where you faced hard times but then later saw how God used them for your good or the good of others?

2. The ushering in of the Kingdom of God by Jesus demands that we respond to Him. Have you repented by turning away from the things in your life that are against God and believed by turning to God in faith alone for salvation? If not, what is it that you are holding on to that is worth forsaking a with relationship Jesus?

3. Can you remember the time where Jesus came to you and called you to Follow Him? This is the time you were saved. Are their changes that have been made in your life that you are willing to discuss that have resulting in you obeying the call of Christ?

4. How has following Jesus changed your life? Are you ever tempted to turn back to the things that you left to follow Him? How do you respond when those temptations hit you?

5. Think about the statement at the end of the lesson; "What those men and the rest of us will become depends on our following of Jesus." What do you see yourself becoming as you follow Jesus? Do you have desires of how you hope He uses you some day?

for them. He faced the discomforts and the persecution Himself. To follow Jesus is to know Him and to serve Him is to know His ways. Before we begin to follow and serve, we must have time where we have fellowship in His word and prayer so that we can hear through the word and by His power obey Him.

The call to be a follower of Jesus implies becoming a disciple where all other ties to this world are put aside and it is only God's will that we desire above all else. Again, Jesus demonstrated this for all who follow Him. In John 6:38 Jesus says, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me." This is the same attitude that He desires to develop in the mind and behavior of His disciples.

The idea of catching people instead of fish is that the gospel will not stay in their little group. They will be trained to tell others the truth of God's saving grace and demonstrate the love of God to others. Eventually, these men will carry the message to places that Jesus had not gone and will reach people that Jesus did not reach. God uses people to carry His message, and it should be seen as a privilege by all who get to be a part of the work.

The call of Jesus is so strong on these men that they leave everything that they know to follow Him. This makes sense when we remember who the One is that is doing the calling. It is none other than God in the flesh who summons His own to follow Him and participate in the work of His Kingdom. What those men and the rest of us will become depends on our following of Jesus. Will you accept the call the follow Jesus and make Him your sole priority in every area of your life?