

# Pastor Dave Rohde

**For Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**  
***"Good News Starts Here"***

## **Mark 1:16-39 – NIV**

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

<sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him."

<sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

**Takeaway:** Following Jesus begins with recognizing his authority.

**Questions:**

1. What stands out about the way Simon, Andrew, James, and John respond when Jesus calls them?
2. Dallas Willard gives three words to describe discipleship: student, apprentice, and practitioner. Which of the three resonate most with you? Is there another word you'd add to the list?
3. Reflect on the different responses to Jesus in these passages (the First Disciples, the crowds, the evil spirits/demons). What can we learn from them?
4. What makes Jesus' authority stand out in these passages? What is the difference between admiring Jesus' authority and submitting to it?

**Sermon:** <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20260920.mp3>

**Service Video:** <https://youtu.be/gxdZiZke354>

**Alternate Service Video:** <https://wpcwestlake.livecontrol.tv/31b52f04>