

## Answering the Call

### Mark 1:16-20

This theme has been heavy on my mind and is the direction I feel the Lord leading us in together for the new year.

This morning I want to preach from [Mark 1:16-20](#) and focus our attention more in a thematic or topical direction for our time today.

When I was first called to pastoral ministry my pastor shared a four-fold responsibility with me that I strive to shape my ministry around but I think it has application for each of us whether we are in vocational ministry or not. This year we shape our focus around these four pillars of ministry: **Learn, Love, Feed, Lead.**

## 1. Learn

In verse 17, There is an invitation extended to the fisherman in the text. The invitation is to learn of Christ. He says to them and to us today come after me. This phrase carries the idea of one who becomes a disciple of another.

### Matthew 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Historians have spent decades researching and writing about the lives of different people.

Its a joy to know that Christ has given us the opportunity to come to know Him.

[Luke 10](#) tells the record of Mary and Martha receiving Jesus into their home. Both of these ladies were hospitable and serving. Both had their own responsibilities and demands of the day. Mary realized how important it was to take time to learn of Christ.

The Berean church - [Acts 17:11](#)

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The opportunities God has given FBCL:

- Sunday morning - Corporate worship & Children's Church
- Sunday evening - EQUIP Classes
- Wednesday evenings - Kids for Christ
- Thursdays - Bible Study at Christopher Homes

ILL - consider that you need to eat daily and if you neglect your diet, eventually your health will be impacted.

We can't neglect the opportunities God has given us.

### **Learn about each other:**

We learn about each other when we are serving together;

ILL - visiting this week someone was sharing about the reality that one of our unique features of living in the south is people used to visit one another. Now you see someone in passing and that's about it. A lady was in her apartment for three days with the TV blaring. Finally someone across the hall called the office and they found the person deceased. Three days no phone call from her children, friends, neighbors. No one checked on her.

I want to be able to know my brothers and sisters so well that I can tell their testimony on their behalf. How many people can you tell that about?

Spend time with each other in a meaningful way to get to know each other.

The room was full of pregnant women and their partners, and the class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, along with informing the men how to give the necessary assurances at this stage of the plan.

The teacher then announced, "Ladies, exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. And, Gentlemen, it wouldn't hurt you to take the time to go walking with your partner!"

The room really got quiet. Finally, a man in the middle of the group raised his hand. "Yes?" replied the teacher.

"Is it all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Experience & Share God's Love

We would do well to adopt a statement for our lives that says, "We exist to know the love of Christ and to show the love of Christ."

### [John 3:16](#)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

ILL - imagine being on a plane...the cab begins filling with smoke...the flight attendant says, come on with me! there's only one way out and I can take you to safety.

John Piper wrote about four ways that the depth of Christ's love is revealed:

- First, we know the depth of someone's love for us by what it costs him.
- Second, we know the depth of someone's love for us by how little we deserve it.
- Third, we know the depth of someone's love for us by the greatness of the benefits we receive in being loved.
- Fourth, we know the depth of someone's love for us by the freedom with which they love us.<sup>2</sup>

### Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Ask how you can pray for people:**

This week Shelle was a young lady that waited on a group that I was with. We asked how we could pray for her. She shared about a young man who was in critical care and her daughter and this young man had a disagreement just before he drove off and ended up in a bad vehicle accident.

Elaina was a young lady waiting me and another pastor and she shared about her three young children who she wanted us to pray for.

Saturday night, Lalo was a young catholic man serving our missions team. He has a friend 82 years old with a wife who is extremely ill. He has been trying to make contact with them and hasn't been able to. He's considering driving all the way to LA to check on them.

Showing love by giving to missions

### **Love those who mistreat you - [Matthew 5:44](#)**

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

### 3. Feed

Immediately I get your attention! I was talking to a pastor this week and this is one of the central outreach tools that they use. The physical food however is not what I'm referring to here.

Jesus told Peter to feed the sheep. [John 21:15-17](#)

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

## 4. Lead

Jesus said, I will make you fishers of men. This means that they will have the opportunity to lead others in the same ways they have been commanded.

I love the image of the Lamb leading His sheep to the fountains of living water in [Revelation 7:17](#)

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

### **The responsibility to lead souls to Christ:**

- Who's your one

Proverbs 11:30

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; And he that winneth souls is wise.

### **The responsibility to lead as a leader:**

[Colossians 3:23–24](#)

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

### **There are leaders in our church.**

- Take leadership seriously
- Pray for our leaders.
- Follow the leader

### **The responsibility to lead as a church**

Areas we want to lead this year:

- Missions/Evangelism
- Community Outreach & Discipleship
- Children and Student Opportunities

### **Closing:**

The Hudson River was known by the Native American people as the river that flows both ways.

It was a two-directional river.

The miracle on the Hudson is an example of what can be accomplished when there is someone willing to lead in the right place.

Unfortunately not all Hudson River experiences flow in the same direction of this miracle. Tragically there is another direction it flows when there is a lack of leadership. A young woman had more than she could handle on her own. After the father of her children took his absence of leadership, she decided to end her life and three of her four children. The ten year old son gave a report that shared details about the details leading up to the incident.

Everyone needs to be in their places.

Will you answer the call right now? God has called the church to learn of Him and others, experience and show the love of Christ, feed others, and lead others.

Dustin Logan  
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Morning Worship

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/preaching-daily/preaching-daily-november-18-11608344.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-depth-of-christs-love-its-cost>