

Because He Lives!

Mark 1:16-18 - Jesus Calls His First Disciples - ¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

TO HAVE PRUPOSE

- Here we find the Lord walking down by the wayside and here he finds two men whom we know now as **Peter and Andrew**.
- They are fishing here in the ocean and I don't know how well they were doing but no doubt at their best they were the least among men.

Notice the Lord said, **“I will make you fishers of men”**,

- I don't know if they understood what that meant
- But notice they did not hesitate either as the Bible says,
- **“They forsook their nets and followed him”**.

This was their livelihood and for them to so quickly forsake it would tell us a lot about what they thought of their life at this point.

Christ knew their hearts and knew that without him they had no purpose.

THE PARALLEL - *This text is a great parallel of how Christ found us.*

- ***We were the least among men even at our greatest moments***
- ***Whether we thought we had the biggest catch or not***
- ***We were empty and without purpose.***

Thank God that the Lord walks by the wayside in life to catch the lowliest of men.

- He took **you and I** who were *fishing for something*,
- Really, **we were fishing for anything** that would bring *happiness or peace to our lives*,

- But seemingly every time we got a big catch it got away.
- He took me and you and **gave us purpose and identity**,
- he said, **“I will make you fishers of men”**.

Just as Simon Peter we have purpose and identity.

It doesn't matter what comes my way or what I may gain or lose in this life because ***I know now why I am here.***

I know now who I serve, and I know him personally.

WITHOUT PURPOSE

John 21:3 - ³“I'm going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We'll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Now suddenly the man has changed.

- He was so happy and content and full of life and purpose,
- but now he is ready to go back to the old life of emptiness again.

What has made this difference?

- Christ has been crucified and now it seems that once again life is the winner
- And once again his life is pointless and without purpose.

He is going to go back to fishing again back to the only thing he knows, just existing.

I thought about this scripture, and I think I can understand where **Simon** is coming from. **You know without Christ I can see how:**

A man who has just lost everything, his wife, kids, might set down and consider suicide. *The only thing that gave him purpose in life is gone*** and there is no reason to think he might ever have it again.**

A person who lives for their job, a person who has allowed their job to be the center of their life might let down after losing it all and think. **Why try?**

Why work your whole life for something, or somebody?

- Suffer and toil through trial after trial and trouble after trouble
- Only to one day lose it all or even if you did keep it,
- You would one day die and rot with no hope or eternity beyond the grave.
- **That is what the world lives for and thinks like.**

Thanks be to God that we can have purpose and hope for our lives and our eternity. Why?

Because he lives!

Mark 16:5-7 - ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

GO TELL PETER - If Christ wouldn’t have rose from the dead, Peter would have just been nobody and nothing, just existing and no reason no point,

Because he rose again Peter had hope, and reason, and potential.

We need to go tell the world that Christ has risen and there is abundant Life.

John 10:9-10 - ⁹ *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.* They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

NO END – Some have said, **“all good things must come to an end”**

I tell you today all things may die **but not all things must end.**

If you are in Christ there is no end, for Christ is eternal.

When a seed is planted it must first die, but after it dies a plant springs forth from it, and **life is more abundant** for that seed than ever before.

I want to tell you in the world all good things come to an end, ***but in Christ there is life and life more abundant.***

- You may lose your job, but that just means life is coming,
- You may lose your family but get ready ***for God to make it better*** than it ever was.
- You may lose a loved one but they are not ended but beginning in eternity.

Death is death to the unbeliever but to the saint of God it is a separation from dead things to eternal living things. Why?

Because he lives. - 1 Corinthians 15:53-55 - ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ***“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”***

I know people that to the world and naturally to themselves -

- Think they are worthless, and without point or purpose,
- But to the person who is in Christ their life has not ended but **broadened**.
- No matter who you are or what your circumstances are.

Because he lives! - John 16:33 - ³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Every crisis and every circumstance - Romans 8:28 - ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, ***who have been called according to his purpose.***

Christ saw your problem and your circumstance from the foundation of the world

- ***He’s already walked your road and your path...***
- ***He made the way*** so you don’t have to do anything but follow his steps.

You have purpose and life because HE LIVES!

SERVE COMMUNION:

A Resurrected Life - BAPTISM

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

3 Things

Death – There is death in all our lives

- Our sin
- Our failures
- Our shortcomings
- Our pasts
- The dead places in our lives

The grave – Where you put your dead stuff

- That is *what baptism is all about*
- There is *a place to put some of the dead* places of our lives.
- You do put dead stuff in a grave.
- Someone said to me last night, *“I have too much bitterness in my heart. I don’t think I can be saved.”*
- Can I say, that’s what the altar is for.
- That *what baptism is all about.*
- There is a place to put all that dead stuff.

The resurrection - Just because something looks dead to you does not mean that God cannot resurrect it.

- Jesus told them, destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up.
- It may look like a lost cause to you...
- It may feel like there is no hope to you...
- No one else may have any faith for it,
- *But let Jesus touch it and heal it* and it will become resurrected!

Here's what I am saying.

- That the dead stuff in your life can be buried today.
- You can put it where it belongs.
- You can say, *"I'm done carrying this dead stuff* around all my life!"
- All you really have to do is make up your mind that you are ready for Jesus to resurrect it.

Romans 6:4 - ⁴ *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

You see a resurrected life is a life that has been touched by God's grace and His miraculous power.

You can have a resurrected life!

- You can live above the dead stuff in your life.
- You **don't have to be** defined by your mistakes.
- You **don't have to be** defined by your failures.
- There can be a resurrection in you today.
- **Something can come alive** that has been dead for a long time.