

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT



May 1, 2022

“The Response to Jesus”

Rev. Dustin Largent

That's what we do here at SonRise is we basically study the Bible, all right, so that's what we do on Sundays here. If you were with us last time, we just started a series on the book of Mark and we're calling it “Who is Jesus?” And last week we discovered a lot of things of who Jesus is. We heard testimonies that told us who Jesus was so we'll find that for instance the author of the book testified that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. Okay so we learned that and then we learned that Malachi which is the Old Testament prophet and Isaiah, they testified that Jesus is the Lord, okay? Then we found out that John the Baptist, he baptized Jesus and what do we find out about Jesus from him that Jesus is going to be a baptizer with the Holy Spirit and also that He is exceedingly worthy exceedingly powerful and exceedingly worthy. All right, so that tells us something about Jesus. It went on and then God the Father, when Jesus is baptized, God the Father speaks down out of heaven and we learn something about Jesus. It says this is my Son in whom I'm well pleased and so we find out that Jesus is the Son of God and that God's pleased with him and He hadn't even done anything yet. Right?

The Holy Spirit descends on him and the Holy Spirit is testifying that that Jesus is the one who's going to bring peace between God and man and it leads us back this idea of a dove right? The dove it he descends in the form of a dove. Here's why that was important is because when we had the ark. Remember the ark? The old testament there was a flood; that's the wrath of God upon people that flood came and then when it was time to see if the wrath of God had receded they sent a dove out when the dove came back they knew okay the wrath of God is over its showing that the wrath of God has finished so it's peace between God and man. And finally he goes out into the desert and he's tempted and we find out something about Jesus that he has victory over Satan. He's victorious over Satan. He can't stop him can't get him.

So the question we're gonna have this morning is if you know all these things about Jesus and who He is from these testimonies how are you gonna respond to him, okay? How do you respond to Jesus? Alright because remember how you respond makes all the difference or who you think Jesus is makes all the difference in how you're going to respond. For instance, let's say that, and I talked about this, let's say EJ stands up right now and she says everybody run out of the church. Well, everybody'd say what in the world is EJ talking about? She wants us to run out of the church and everybody looks at each other and nobody gets up and leaves right? But if the fire marshal comes in here and he stands in the middle and he says everybody get up and run, everybody does except Randy who says, “Well I knew you since you were in third grade” right? But then, all of a sudden, somebody comes in here with a black coat on a black hood and they've got an AR-15 and they say everybody get out of the church. Everybody's like, that's a good idea right and everybody starts jetting right? Who you think they are makes a difference on whether you obey what they say or whether you do what they say. It's based on who they are and so we saw a whole bunch of things last week as who He is. Question is, how are you going to respond to that and so today we're going to look as we continue on at the way some people respond to this Jesus that we've been introduced to in the first chapter. Let's go ahead and pray and then we'll dive right into Mark chapter 1 verse 14.

God thank you for your word. I pray that you would illuminate it for us today, God that our minds and our hearts and our spirit could really ingest this and God that we'd apply it to our life. God you give us the power to do that by the power of your Holy Spirit in Jesus name amen?

So if you've got your Bible here we're at chapter 1 verse 14 and here's where it picks up. It says, “After John was put in prison. Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come” he said “the kingdom of God has come near repent believe the good news”

Okay, so here we've got John the Baptist all right we talked a little bit about John the Baptist before but he gets put in prison. That doesn't sound like a good thing right? Why is he put in prison he's put in prison? For a couple reasons and it depends on who you talk to. If you read scripture and you look at scripture the reason he's put in prison is because Herod had a girlfriend okay? He was married but he had a girlfriend and you know who he wanted as his girlfriend? He wanted his brother's wife so his sister-in-law. He had the hots on his sister-in-law and so he decided that he wanted to be married to her because he liked her better and so what he did, he divorced his wife and he married a sister-in-law. Well John spoke up about it and said, "hey that ain't cool right that's not good" and Herod didn't like it. Herod's new wife didn't like it and so they disliked her.

Now Josephus says something different. Josephus if you know him he's a historian. Haid this about it I thought this was interesting a great influence the great influence of John had over the people was why Herod didn't like him he didn't like him because he saw all the influence that John was having people, were swarming out to see this weird guy that's wearing camel clothes and eating locusts and you know bizarre stuff. This is a weird guy but he's really popular and so it says the great influence of John had over the people which might persuade John to raise a rebellion for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise and so this is interesting to me because you've got this guy Jesus are this guy John the Baptist who is pointing people to Jesus his whole thing the whole point of John the Baptist is I'm going to point people to Jesus. Don't look at me, look at that guy! Okay, that's his whole point and they're out they're out to get John okay they're out to get John and they and they arrest John and he's put in prison this really foreshadows if they're going after the lesser guy John and they're putting the lesser guy in jail in mark chapter one what's going to happen to the greater guy that he's pointing to? It can't be good. It's foreshadowing that something really bad is on the horizon.

So the first response that we see in this response to all these things we saw about Jesus last week all these things of who he is who's standing here is it is it is it a powerful Jesus or is it Jesus that I can just ignore right because this is this is the thing. We can respond to Jesus in a lot of different ways and people back then did as well and people that are in this room will too. Some of us will say, well I'm going to follow Jesus I'm going to do the best I can to follow him some of us will just reject Jesus. Right? They'll say well I don't. Everybody's going to respond though. Okay nobody encounters Jesus and doesn't respond nobody back then encountered Jesus and didn't respond nobody in this room and encounters Jesus or hears about Jesus and doesn't respond you will follow Jesus or you might reject Jesus you might ignore Jesus you might give Jesus lip service but you're going to respond in some way and the first person to respond we see in this book is John the Baptist and the way he responds is he's willing to be imprisoned he's willing to stand firm and be imprisoned we find.

If you've got a Bible, go to go to Matthew. I like this passage Matthew chapter 11 and it's verse 2. It says when Jesus who or when John who was in prison heard about the deeds of the Messiah he sent his disciples to ask him are you the one who is to come or should we expect someone else. See John the Baptist is in prison for Jesus and now he knows there's a good chance he's going to die in there and he just wants to make sure. Listen I'm pretty sure I mean I've risked a lot here I'm willing to be in prison it's cool but I just need a little bit of assurance. Can you reassure me are you the Messiah. Are you Him. Just tell me point blank right so that I can so that I'm ready to go right and watch what happens watch what happens here it says Jesus replied go back and report to John what you hear and see the blind are receiving sight the lame walk those who have leprosy are cleansed the deaf hear the dead are raised and the good news is proclaimed to the poor blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me. And so you see He's ready to go but he's willing that's the response one of the responses that God wants us to have is one that where we're not flipping and flopping we're not we're not going back and forth and we're standing for Jesus firmly willing to do whatever it takes to follow Christ and that's John.

It's a great response by John it goes on let's keep going in Mark. Mark chapter one, all right, let's get back in here as Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee. Oh you know what let's go back because I get excited about this one verse 15 the time has come he said the kingdom of God has come near repent and believe the good news that's the message he was speaking repent believe the good news.

What does repent mean you know what repent is? I remember in Bible study you were in the Bible study I think we had a discussion about repentance what was repentance and I think the discussion went along the line is do you have to repent to be a Christian or can you just have faith and not repent how does that work right is repentance a part of salvation and I just want to help you understand that repentance is a part of salvation. It's very necessary in salvation because they can't be separated. Let me let me explain this clearly so that we understand what the repentance is. Repentance is basically leaving your sin, so I'm walking in one direction in my life I'm living for myself hey you know what I'm going to live for me and I'm going to get whatever I want. I'm gonna do whatever I want and then all of a sudden I meet Jesus and I'm like all right I'm gonna follow him and I turn and now I'm not living that way I'm turning and I'm going this way.

Here's an example. About four years ago, no three years ago, I moved here from Seattle. Okay I moved here from Seattle to pastor here. When I did that I made a decision that I was going to go to Atkinson. Do I have to tell you that I was leaving Seattle when I tell you that I'm coming to Atkinson? Did I have to tell you that couldn't be in Seattle and in Atkinson. No, in order to come to Atkinson I had to leave Seattle. Does that make sense? That is what repentance is. Repentance is leaving in order to follow Jesus and so I was living a certain life and I was living for myself, and I picked up I packed my bags and I turned around and I said I'm going to Atkinson and you know what I did when I came to Atkinson? I left Seattle behind why because I can't take Seattle with me! The nature of coming to Atkinson was leaving Seattle behind and so I leave Seattle and bye-bye Seattle hello Atkinson. That's how it works. That's repentance.

Is repentance a part of salvation? Yes, because you're leaving living for you and you're turning and living for God. You're following Jesus and you're going to something else you're going to a new kingdom, the kingdom of God right? I hope that makes a little bit of sense, maybe so I don't know we'll keep going.

Verse 16 as Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, I love this. Jesus is out for a walk. You ever go out you like to walk by water? Not on water, I'm talking by water right I can't walk on water nobody I'm good but I like to go out I used to love to go out and look at the ocean and somebody like if you go on the beach you know and get out early in the morning go out there watch the sun come up over the water. I used to go down to Puget Sound and I'd watch and I just go out there's something peaceful about that and Jesus is just out for a walk right? He's out for a walk and while he's out for a walk it says he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting net into the lake for they were fishermen.

So out while he's out for a walk there's other cats that are out there right and these guys are out there and they're doing stuff with their nets and they're casting nets and there's several people and and he says this he says come follow me Jesus said, and I will send you out to fish for people at once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat preparing their nets without delay he called them and they left their father Zebedee in a boat with the hired hands and followed him so this is this is kind of interesting.

Watch what happens here, he picks up this encounter is important Jesus could have just kept walking looking at the sunset and just kind of walking on by and if he had walked by and never encountered or never spoke to these people if he'd walked by and never spoke to Simon never spoke to Andrew never said follow me the life of Andrew and Simon would have been completely different. Peter wouldn't have been killed for the faith. Andrew wouldn't have been killed for the faith. None of this would have happened. This chance encounter is an

important encounter one encounter can change and transform your life. One encounter in my life changed and transformed my life because somebody said you could die tonight and would you be with Jesus. It was a chance encounter if that had never happened my life would have been completely different and we are constantly out making encounters with people.

Why is Jesus saying I will make you fishers of men? Okay, notice that I think this is interesting he says follow me and I will make you fishers of men. He doesn't just say follow me because if you come to say hey follow me you're like well where? Follow me to do what? Just follow me dude. I don't know who you are right? Follow me. Jesus says follow me and I'll make you fishers of men becoming fishers of men is a part of the follow me. He's calling you to follow for a purpose. They know that purpose when they're called. They're being called to fish for people. Why? Because that's what Jesus is doing he's out along the water he's walking and he's fishing for people and he sees a couple of fish on the side in the water playing with their nets and he calls them and he fishes for him and he catches them he says you know what, now I'm gonna take these fish and I'm gonna train you to be fishers of men watch how it says it in the in the scripture here. It says and I will send you out to fish for people I will send you out to fish for people.

Let me go to another passage if you go to Luke chapter 5 Matthew, Mark, Luke 5. there we go let's go to Luke chapter 5. This same encounter is shown in another and here's what we know. Mark is a shorter gospel. It's a shorter gospel and it's more evangelistic it's not written to Jews. It's not written to them, it's written specifically for Romans and for Gentiles. It's written to share the gospel. That's the whole point but if you look at Luke chapter 5 let's look at verse 11 it says this it says um is it verse 11? No verse one, all right it says one day Jesus was standing by the water lake at Gennesaret, Gennesaret area it sounds kind of French doesn't it Gennesaret.

Is it a lake or is it a sea, because it's called the Sea of Galilee it's also called the sea of Tiberias um it's not a sea. The only people that called it the sea were people that lived around there and I don't know if they thought it made it sound good to call it a sea but it wasn't a sea it's a lake it's Lake Gennesaret all right and the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God he saw on the water's edge two boats left there by the fishermen who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats the one belonged to Simon and asked him to put out a little for a little from the shore then he sat down and taught the people from the boat so this is the same encounter we're just getting a lot more information it's not just that he walks up and says hey follow me that's an abbreviated version of what happened uh when he had finished speaking he said to Simon put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch Simon answered master we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything but because you say so I will let down the nets right respect for Jesus it's not like they've never seen Jesus before there's respect for Jesus when they had done so they caught such a large number of fish that the net began to break so they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them and they came and filled both boats so full they began to sink when Simon Peter saw this he fell at Jesus knees and said go away from me lord I am a sinful man. Why? Because they've encountered God and when you encounter God most of us don't say I want to be like God we say I got to get as far away from God as I can because I'm sinful and He's holy and it just there's this major rub it's like a magnet turned backwards and You're it you just can't stand to be in that type of holiness holy presence of God and so he's like get away from me I'm a sinful person you are God right? You are holy and I don't even know what would happen to me at this point he fell on his knees go away from me Lord. I am a sinful man for he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken and so were James and John the sons of Zebedee Simon's partners.

So we just found something out. James and John the sons of Zebedee are business partners are in this deal they're fishing with Simon and Andrew and we find out actually in Mark if you go back to Mark we find out that that it is it is uh John and it's the sons of Zebedee and their dad they have hired people. It's likely that Peter and Simon were hired by John and James's dad and they all leave with hired hands left right they pick up right so

there's a business investment and there is a business aspect here too that the sons of Zebedee they their parents they have a fishing conglomeration they have a fishing business right? Most of the people that lived in this area between 70 and 90% were what you would call poor peasant people. In this area fishermen were not that. Fishermen actually tended to be more middle class so you're talking about more middle class people when you've got 70 to 90% of the people that are really poor these are middle class people and the reason they're middle class is because when you and I go to the store and we get staples we get we get hamburger or we get beef we get chicken we get pork. They buy fish! That was their staple they bought fish everything was fish right fish kebabs fish this everything right you're always eating fish all the time you're like man I wish I could get less fish right, but it was all fish it was a staple and so that was a good business and they were doing all right what happens is James and John they pick up just like that and they leave this business behind they leave it all behind and so we see a couple things first of all we see let's go back let's go back to the one before Cooper.

Simon and Andrew their response to Jesus is to follow Him. They pick up and they follow Jesus. What we get from James and John is that they left father and business right, they left father in business. How many of us are at a place where we're willing to pick up and leave your job because God says to. You're willing to pick up and move and go somewhere else because God said so right, you don't even know what all that's going to mean but you're willing to do that because you trust God that much. You trust him that much let's keep going. Family business thing wow you ever seen people in their life maybe met somebody in their life where they're in their 40s or 50s and all of a sudden they go and they cash in their 401k in order to start a business or they cash in their 401k for some cause. You ever met anybody like that. I've met some people like that where it's the middle there all of a sudden they find a business opportunity and somebody sells them on this business opportunity and they've got enough to retire and they're at that point and they say you know what we're cashing it all in because we're putting all of our chips in this basket because we believe in it so much. That's what's happening with James and John that's what's happening with James and John.

Let's finish up here in mark chapter one. Chapter one verses 21 to 28 and this is where things get a little bit sticky. Oh my goodness I'm running out of time.

As soon as they left the synagogue oh they went to Capernaum and when the sabbath they went into the synagogue and began to preach. Now some of you are like how does Jesus get to preach? How is it that He's getting to preach like that Jesus didn't have any seminary degree you know so how is he getting to preach on Sunday? What would happen is that there were scribes that would normally lead at synagogues. Actually, the people that led synagogues were not like pastors like we have today people that led synagogues were more like administrators and so they actually functioned a lot like if any of you remember before I was here, there was about a year where you didn't have a pastor and you had one person, Janice who would go out and she would find people that would come and they would preach on Sunday and say they would you preach this Sunday and say yeah all right and so she would organize stuff she was an administrator. She didn't really pastor. Here -- was in ministry calling people in and if they could get a nice young guy in you know that maybe had a little energy they'd say even better right and so all of a sudden this administrator at the synagogue they were always looking for people that they thought would be good teachers and that could do that and that's why Jesus is getting opportunity, because they don't have somebody that's always preaching all the time it's very kind of hodgepodge and so it goes on. Here it says and they went to firm they went to the sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.

The people were amazed at his teaching because he taught them as one who had authority not as the teachers of the law. Okay, so here's what scribes did. This is the way the teaching used to work, okay and why they're talking about him teaching with authority. Scribes would teach based on precedent okay. So now it's really nice to come up with things that are kind of original, you feel like oh well you know I found this on my own and this is

the answer your problem. People would come to these scribes and they would make judgments based on the law based on scripture so you'd come and you've got some problem right you'd come to the scribe and they'd say well based on the precedent that this scribe said uh you know 150 years ago, this is what you should do okay or we've got another problem we're interpreting this passage from the Bible. Well this scribe I'm not going to say anything on my own I'm going to follow precedent and I'm going to look back at the people in the olden days people that had written you know 100 years ago or 50 years ago somebody that had stepped out on a limb and I will quote that person and say this so.

It's a lot like our court system today, isn't it? A lot. When they make a decision, they don't make a new judgment, they go well based on precedent so and so versus you know you know fish-head versus flounder back in the 1920s this was the thing and then it said give the wagon to so and so. I mean it was just kind of bizarre right? It's always based on precedent. The judge isn't making anything fresh. The scribe isn't saying anything fresh. He's just quoting what other people did because he doesn't have the ability to do that.

Jesus shows up and He's not quoting nobody. Jesus shows up and he's here he everything he's getting is right from God he's filled with the Holy Spirit he's not using any precedent. He's not talking at all like the scribes and people look at him and they're like, he ain't got no notes. Who is this guy how is he he's not nervous about going out on a limb a little bit, He just comes out and he teaches you and it cuts to our heart and people are like he teaches with authority and so it says right here it says he taught with authority. The people were amazed at his teaching because he taught them as one who had authority not as the teachers of the law.

Just then a man in this synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out 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. So this is interesting, they're in church they're in a synagogue and there's a dude in church that's filled with a demon. That's a bad thing okay, demon possession you wouldn't normally expect that on a Sunday right during praise and worship you know you're gonna get done singing kumbaya and all of a sudden some guy's crying out over there he's got a demon in him and first and second of all a person with a demon isn't supposed to be in the synagogue because they are considered unclean and unclean people aren't to be in a synagogue.

All right but somehow this guy sneaks in or he hides in or gets some somehow it gets in there and Jesus encounters this and they're not quiet everybody else knows Jesus what does it say here what do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth that's what everybody calls Jesus, rabbi or Jesus of Nazareth. That's who He's known as. That's who He is earthly his earthly identity is Jesus of Nazareth and these demons are like Jesus of Nazareth, what do you see have you come to destroy us see they know that their destruction is coming demons. Demons will be destroyed by Jesus he knows that he says "I know who you are". They all think you're Jesus of Nazareth. They all think that it's just you are the holy one of God

Be quiet said Jesus that's Hebrew for shut up! I'm just kidding come out of him the impure spirit. Now we're even looking at spiritual things spiritual people responding. How are spiritual demons responding to Jesus, he says come out of him the impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek and so if we throw up on the screen we can see this one uh we see that um unclean spirits obey him the unclean spirit obeys him that's a really timely miracle. It's a timely miracle because um what we find is that his speaking he's speaking with authority and his speaking with authority gives rise to his being able to show authority over the spiritual realm and yet when He does these miracles, it lends more authority to the things that he says. The things that he says.

Let's finish it up right here, 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 news about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Wow! Okay, I guess the question is this, how are you going to respond to Jesus today? We saw all the things that Jesus is and sometimes I think I look at this passage and I say but I can't respond to the way they did I can't just pick up and leave everything. Fair enough, not everybody in the time of Jesus did that his disciples did right it's not like everybody that came and became a follower of Jesus were like James and John and Peter and Andrew they didn't all just pick up leave their businesses behind and leave, all right they didn't all do that. Is that expected of everybody? No, it's not expected of everybody, but what is expected is that we will do what he asked them. The call is the same. The call is the same the call is follow me and I will make you fishers of men I'll make you fishers of men follow me and then you will be my evangelist you will go out and you will call other people to fish for men and we're going to keep doing this this is how this is going to work and you'll find some people that say well no I'm only supposed to I'm only supposed to follow him. I'm going to follow him without being a fisher of men. I'm going to follow him without telling people about Jesus. I'm going to follow him without trying to draw people to Jesus. I'm going to follow him without doing. You can't follow Jesus and not be drawing people to Jesus because that's what Jesus did right? If Jesus said follow me and I will make you bakers of bread then everybody would have to be baking bread all the time right? It just because otherwise you wouldn't be following Jesus right?

Following Jesus involves doing what Jesus did and what he called us to do. He says follow me and I will make you fishers of men he wants us to follow him and that involves repentance. That involves as I walk this direction and I'm going my own way saying you know what I'm not going to do that I'm going to leave Seattle. I'm gonna leave the den of iniquity. I'm gonna leave that life and I'm gonna follow Him and now what's He doing? Well he's calling people to follow Jesus he's calling people to follow him. Okay, well if I'm following him I'm gonna do what He's doing. That's what this passage is about. That's what this passage is about we're going to close up let's pray and then we're going to sing one last song and then we'll be dismissed.

God thanks for bringing us here, letting us study your word Mark chapter one and God we've all been called. Some of us were called a long time ago to follow you and some of us have followed you faithfully and sturdily. Others of us followed you for a little while and now we kind-of follow you and we kind of follow ourselves and we kind of follow other things and we follow you from a distance some of us we follow you not really wanting people to know we're following you. We follow you a lot of different ways God, but you want us to follow you and do what you say and to do what you're doing and we see you doing a lot of things here in our church we see you doing a lot of things here now we want to be a part of that so God we follow you new and fresh right now we decide to follow you not partly not from a distance. God, we see your power and God we even know that as we follow you and we know that as we as we try to fish for men that you will even provide the fish like you did for James and John and Peter for Simon and Andrew. God you even provided the fish, so many that the boat almost flipped. God we pray you'd provide fish. God put fish in our nets now. We thank you we love you and you're our God we're your people. We're proud to be your people, in Jesus name, amen.