

# Clues To The Kingdom

“Case for Christ”, part 3, September 26th, 2021  
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

## Insights about the KOG

**Mark 1:14-20**

## When is it?

**Mark 1:14-15**

- **It is both N\_\_\_\_\_ & N\_\_\_\_\_**  
(Luke 11:2, 20; 17:21; 19:11-12, 1 John 3:2, Ephesians 2:4-7)

## Where is it?

- **It is where ...**

## How do we join it?

**Mark 1:16-20**

- **It involves ....** **v16**  
(Matthew 16:24-26, Luke 14:25-33)
- **It involves ....** **v17-20**  
(Colossians 3:23, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33, Luke 5:1-11)
- **It involves ....**  
(John 3:30, Matthew 6:31-33, Philippians 2:3-5)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide:**

Welcome to our third week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Our last week meeting will be the week of Sunday, November 14th (the week before Thanksgiving :).

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to walk with Jesus and apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

### **Getting Started:**

Last Sunday morning, we read how the Kingdom of God is both 'now' and 'not yet'. Speaking of looking forward to something that is 'not yet', when you were younger, what do you remember really ... really ... looking forward to ... and then it finally arrived or you finally experienced it.

What was it? Did it finally meet your expectations or exceed your expectations or not live up to what you had hoped?

And ... in light of reflecting on the Kingdom of God, if you were 'king or queen for a day' ... or let's say a week ... what would you like to do or experience?

Lastly, before we move into our discussion of Mark 1:14-20, Bob shared that one way we 'join the Kingdom of God' involves leaving what God prompts us to let go of.

Speaking of leaving, what or who have you had to 'leave' in your past that was difficult?

What was that experience so hard? What have you learned from it?

### **Looking back to last Sunday:**

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or confused you?

Bob shared that the two sets of brothers (Peter/Andrew and James/John) had previous interactions with Jesus. These earlier experiences helped prepare them to respond to their 'life-changing invitation' found in Mark 1:16-20 to make a career change and follow Jesus as 'leaders in training'.

Can you think of one or two significant earlier encounters you had as a Christ follower that helped prepare you to trust Him when He later called you to follow Him in a more challenging way?

## **Digging Deeper:**

This past Sunday, Bob shared that what the “Kingdom of God” is and how the term “Kingdom of God or Heaven” is used over 100 times in the four gospels.

In Matthew 13, Jesus shares several parables to help us understand what the Kingdom of God/Heaven is like. Let’s reflect on and discuss a few of them.

Let’s read about the ‘parable of the weeds’ in Matthew 13:24-30 and v36-43 and then about the ‘parables of the mustard seed and the yeast’ in Matthew 13:31-33 and then about the ‘parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl’ in Matthew 13:44-45

In each of these parables, what words or phrase jump out at you?  
What verse or phrase do you see as most important to remember?  
What words or phrase do you have questions about that we can discuss?

Bob shared about the ‘now’ and ‘not yet’ nature of the Kingdom of God.  
How can we see these parables revealing both aspects of God’s Kingdom?

How can a better understanding of the Kingdom of God help us in our journey of following Jesus?

“Leaving or letting go or putting off” is part of living for Christ. What have we learned about what we need to give up or leave behind as a Christ follower?

Hearing that being part of the Kingdom of God involves following, leaving and shifting our focus, we can often feel like we are being asked to do something impossible. We can easily wonder, “How can we expect to be able to obey Jesus when we live in a fallen world and we have a sin nature?”

What insights and encouragement do you find in John 15:1-8 as to why following Jesus is possible and not something we have to accomplish by sheer determination alone?

What are some challenges for you to consistently abide or remain in Christ?

## **Looking Back and Ahead:**

Looking back on this week’s message and study, what is most important for you to remember and ask God for the strength to live in light of?

## **Praying Together:**

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another. Before we wrap up, let’s each share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.