

# What Happens When Jesus Comes to Galilee?

Ինչ կը Պատահի Երբ Յիսուս Կը Հասնի Գալիլիա

## Mark 1:14-34

What was the first verse of the Gospel according to Mark?

**“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”** (Mark 1:1 ESV)

The first verse is the title of this entire work.

Mark is presenting Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God who comes with a message, and He speaks **with authority**.

We see this expressed even from the Roman Centurion almost in the end of the gospel:

**And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”** (Mark 15:39)

After his baptism, Jesus goes to the desert where he is tempted then to Galilee.

He is proclaiming his message when John the Baptist is in jail:

**<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel.”** (Mark 1:14-15 ESV)

Herod could not take anymore the popularity and the message of John the Baptist, so he put him in jail. How interesting that earthly authorities think they can stop the ministry by jailing someone. God has His ways to declare His message.

Jesus does not go to Jerusalem, he goes to **Galilee**, doing what?

Teaching, proclaiming the Gospel of God:

**“The time is fulfilled.”** *Kairos*, this is historic time, “The time is fulfilled”  
**“The Kingdom of God is at hand.”**

Question: Hasn't the Kingdom of God always existed?

Yes, for example the Old Testament speaks of the coming the kingdom of God. “It refers to God’s personal visitation to this fallen world to manifest redemption.”<sup>1</sup>

**The Kingdom of God is at hand** because the KING is there, people can reach out to Him. The long-awaited Messiah has come. What is the message?

**“Repent and believe in the gospel.”**

This is not cheap grace. Sometimes we simplify following Jesus and make it like, raising hand, coming forward, praying the sinner's prayer, and done...

I believe God can touch someone with those steps. I came to Jesus like that in 1977.

But those small steps of faith died when I did not have a discipleship and follow up process. After committing myself a second time the following year, I continued my journey with Jesus. **Repentance** was important part of commitment to follow Jesus. I learned to give up and surrender to His Will. Daily I repent (*metanoia*) (turn around) and surrender to His Will, and learn to trust Him.

Daily....daily....daily....daily...

But you see the message is not in vacuum.

**Repent.** Turn around and **believe in the gospel.**

Repentance is not an end itself; it is the first step of faith.

Believe in the gospel. Mark will explain in his writings what is the gospel.

### **Follow Me.**

**Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.** (Mark 1:16-20 ESV)

**Sea of Galilee**, this is an important fishing sea. There are ten cities around this lake and more than 300 fishing boats. This is a good place for business.

**Follow me...** a very short, direct invitation for these fishermen. They leave everything and follow Jesus. Wow, what an authority from Jesus! What a divine invitation that touches these men to follow him.

**-Simon and Andrew** left their nets (business) and followed him.

**-James and John**, also fishermen, left their father (Mr. Zebedee) and their net (business) to follow Jesus. What a commitment.

How in the world these men followed Jesus? Did they know Jesus before?

"We know that something more must have happened-- and we learn such details from Luke and John. They must have heard and believed His preaching that the

Kingdom of God had come.”<sup>2</sup> But with Mark, sudden invitation. Mark likes to emphasize the force of Jesus’ call, his authority.

There is power in Jesus’ call. Oh yes, I have witnessed that in my life, and I do now.

### **-Fishermen called to be fishers of men**

If you notice, Jesus did not call them to be shepherds, gathering the lost sheep of Israel, but fishers. In the OT the prophets used the image for gathering people for judgment. (Jer. 16:14-16, Ezek. 29:4; 47:10, Amos 4:2)

“When the fisherman hooks a fish, it has fatal consequences for the fish; life cannot go on as before. This image fits the transforming power of God’s rule that brings judgment and death to the old, yet promises a new creation (Rom. 6:1–11). The disciples are called to be agents who will bring a compelling message to others that will change their lives beyond recognition. Jesus’ call has the same effect on them.”<sup>3</sup>

Repentance, putting to death my old life, my sin, and asking a new life, a transformed life where Jesus is King and Lord.

### **The Authority of Jesus**

**And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching.** <sup>22</sup> **And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.** (Mark 1:21-22 ESV)

People were amazed how Jesus was teaching.

Please notice, Jesus’ priority is to teach. I think they were surprised and scared thinking, “Who is this man? Who is this that speaks with authority? “

- **Scribes** can recite other scholars, rabbinic traditions.

- **Jesus’ authority** reminds me OT prophets when they said: “**Thus said the Lord**” Now, here in Capernaum, **the Lord Himself is present teaching in power.**

Let me challenge you here, when we read His Word, let us remember that this is the Word of God. This is His Word, His authority that we have it in our hands, to study and read, and meditate.

What happened after this? You see the evil cannot take away the authority of Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> **And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,** <sup>24</sup> **“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”**

**Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”** <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.  
(Mark 1:23-28 ESV)

Jesus is not just a teacher; he is also here for healing and exorcism fighting against demonic forces.

As you see by the presence of Jesus on the earth, starting from his Baptism to the wilderness, the demonic power is restless. Satan sees that his end is coming soon. Satan is trying one more time to dominate Jesus, how? Naming him.

**“Jesus of Nazareth, have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”**

The evil spirit is plural. **“Jesus of Nazareth, have you come to destroy us?”** Demons are terrified facing the Holy God. **have you come to destroy us?** Next we see that they name Jesus saying:

**“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”**

They shout out both an earthly name, **Jesus of Nazareth**, and a divine name, the **Holy One of God**.

Knowledge is Power. Knowing someone’s name is ownership.

Gundry argues that the Hellenistic audience who hears the unclean spirit will think that it has gained the upper hand by identifying Jesus, but Jesus moves aggressively to silence it. <sup>4</sup>

I don’t know exactly why Satan called Jesus by name. Whatever is the reason, Jesus does not want to be identified by evil spirits.

Jesus rebukes Satan, **“Be silent and come out.” “Shut up...”**

29-34 Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law, also heals people who were obsessed with demons. One more time we find how Jesus ministered. He visited homes, he sat with them, he ate with them, he taught with authority, he faced evil powers. So many people came to see him. This is typical ME village life. News travel fast and everyone who has a need will come in a few minutes.

**Application:**

- What does follow me mean to you today?
- How did you experience the authority and power of Jesus over your life?
- Healing was part of Jesus ministry. In what area of your life the “healing touch” of Jesus?

1. R.C. Sproul, *He Thought Them as One Who Had Authority Mark*, P 15
2. David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*, Mark P 78
3. *ibid.* P69
4. Guelich, *Mark*, 56–57. (from *The NIV Application Commentary*, Mark P 71