

# PASTOR'S NOTES

## The King of the Kingdom

Mark 1:14-20

### The King Announces the Kingdom

*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)

Faithful preaching of God's word and kingdom will bring opposition and suffering. John was arrested, literally "handed over," and later, Mark will use the same verb for Jesus being "handed over" to his enemies.

Now, Jesus comes into Galilee boldly proclaiming the gospel of God.

*"The time is fulfilled."* Jesus is not just referring to a date on the calendar; he is declaring that God's appointed time has arrived. He reaches back through the history of redemption and brings forward all the promises of Scripture concerning a King who would defeat Satan, save his people, and establish God's righteous rule. Jesus is essentially saying, "The wait is over. The kingdom of God is at hand."

Jesus is announcing that God's royal reign has drawn near because he, the King of the kingdom, has arrived.

Mark is not content just to reveal that Jesus is King; he shows us the King's authority in the rest of the book. And that matters because this King now issues two imperatives that demand a response from every person who hears the gospel: "Repent and believe." These imperatives are inseparably linked.

The Bible teaches that faith is required for salvation. However, genuine faith is evidenced by a transformed life. The Spirit who regenerates us and brings us to faith also empowers us to live repentantly.

Jesus also commands us to believe and keep on believing the gospel.

In repentance, we turn and keep turning from sin and self-rule. In faith, we entrust ourselves to the good news God has brought in Christ, and we keep trusting.

### The King Calls His Disciples

<sup>16</sup> *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)

Jesus has commanded people to repent and believe the gospel; now Mark shows us what such faith looks like in practice. Those who believe in Jesus are called to follow him.

Simon and Andrew

*"Follow me"* –

The call is not broadcast openly to anyone; it is given specifically to these men. And they're not being called to a movement, a revolution, or religion. They are called to follow Jesus. Everything about their lives will flow from the relationship the Lord called them into.

*"... I will make you become fishers of men"* – Jesus calls people as they are, but he intends to transform them into people with eternal purposes.

Jesus takes responsibility for what these men will become. Similarly, none of us comes to Christ as a finished product. We come with weaknesses, sinful patterns, incomplete understanding, fears, and failures. But Jesus commits himself to changing us. Following Jesus means submitting ourselves to Christ's ongoing work in us.

Simon, Andrew, James, and John were uniquely called to be among the twelve disciples. What is not unique is their mission; their mission is given to every person in the church. We must be fishers of people.

People alive in Christ are not indifferent toward those who do not know him. He brings us into his kingdom and then involves us in the work of his kingdom.

Every Christian has people within their reach: family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, classmates, and other people we meet in the ordinary rhythms of life. We can pray for them, love them, speak about Christ to them, share the gospel, and be ready to explain the hope that is within us.

Jesus' call is personal, transformational, and costly. And we embrace each of these because the King's call takes priority over everything else.

Looking back over this passage, we can see progression, the same thing that Jesus calls for each of us.

Repent

Believe

Follow

Become

Fish



MeadowBrook  
CHURCH

Sunday, August 23, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter  
mbchurch.com

The time is fulfilled,  
and the kingdom of God  
is at hand;  
repent and believe  
in the gospel.

MARK 1:15 ESV









**GriefShare®**

GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. You'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

**Cost: \$10 for workbook**

*Facilitated by: Amelia Day, Bob Sanford, Sue Chappell, Jim & Deb Rhodes and Wayne Findley*

**MONDAYS**  
*Beginning August 31*  
**10 AM | Conference Center**



*Tuesday Bible Study*

**Begins Tuesday, SEPT 8**  
**9:30 AM - Dining Hall**

*Taught by Gerry Grant*

**For Men & Women**

**WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS**

**FALL Breakout Groups begin Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 9 at 6:30 PM**

Breakout groups are intentional topical studies that meet for a short season on Wednesday nights. These groups help equip disciples in various areas so that they might better glorify God in every area of their lives.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

**TODAY**  
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center  
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group  
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater  
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool  
4:00 pm - Global Missions Cohort - Round Room

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24**  
6:00 pm - Pickleball - Gym

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25**  
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26**  
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym  
(Mexican Beef, Nachos Supreme, Salad Bowl & Dessert or Salad with a Protein / Kids: Hamburgers & Chips)  
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210  
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

**2026 DAILY BIBLE READING**

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| August 23 - Luke 18 | August 27 - Luke 22:1-34  |
| August 24 - Luke 19 | August 28 - Luke 22:35-71 |
| August 25 - Luke 20 | August 29 - Luke 23:1-31  |
| August 26 - Luke 21 |                           |

*Welcome*

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE** gift!

**life group**  
*Life together for the Kingdom of God*

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.



*The Well at Brunson Farms*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  
from **2:00** until **6:30** in the evening  
**BRUNSON FARMS**  
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table, and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical tools to grow in and live out their faith.

**Register on the App or [mbchurch.com](https://mbchurch.com)**

**COST: \$25**  
Optional Sweatshirt \$20

*Prayer Needs*

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

• Jade Oliver & family in the loss of her grandfather