

**Mark 1:14-20**

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!” 16 As 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 make you fishers of men.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him. 19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

41-01-01-Back to the Future-I

prophecy, kingdom of God, gospel, evangelism

Mark 1:14-20

The future Kingdom’s arrival calls for total allegiance to the King.

**INTRODUCTION:** (read **text**, unless it was the Scripture Reading)

–This sermon is the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 messages from Mark 1: **Back to the Future I, II & III**. I chose those titles because of their parallels with the movie trilogy. [In the 1<sup>st</sup> film, Marty McFly helps Doc Brown’s test drive his time machine and becomes trapped in the past. He’s in danger of dissolving, if he can’t work things out and get back to the future.] We too can get trapped by “the present evil age” (Gal 1:4) and we’re in danger of dissolving into it. We must get **back to the future**, which Jesus brought to us, when He came. **HOM.idea**.  
–In today’s **text in Mark** we’ll see what that means, as we look at the vision, the voice and the vocation of the future. Once, *there was only...*

## **I. The Vision of the Future**

- A. OT prophets [called seers] had seen a future end-time with a **Messiah** coming to bring **deliverance from oppression**, divine **judgment on evil**, a **resurrection of the dead**, and an **endless reign of peace**.
- B. John, *the last OT prophet*, preached: 1) **repentance** (judgment was coming); 2) **baptism** (a total cleansing to meet the Messiah); and 3) the **end of the old age** and the **arrival of the future age**.
- C. But OT prophets didn’t know that *the Messiah would arrive early* to bring the **future Kingdom without bringing its final fulfillment...**
  1. John’s arrest even disillusioned him about *what was going on*.
  2. Demonic rulers were in the dark about it too– **1Co 2:6-7**, We... speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the **rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing**. No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. (This “secret wisdom” is now revealed!)
  3. **Jesus was a real Time-Traveler**, arriving early and **bringing the future with Him!** AND what did *He bring*? **He brought:**\*
    - a. **\*Messiah’s Reign!** [**Messiah**]=“Christ”=“anointed one”] (Most had expected a Monarch anointed with oil for a physical reign; but He was anointed by the Holy Spirit to initiate a spiritual reign.)
    - b. **\*Deliverance!** (They expected Christ to bring political liberation; but He was coming early to bring spiritual freedom.)

- c. **Judgment!** –John 3:19 (ESV), And this is the **judgment**: the **light** has come into the world, and people loved the **darkness** rather than the light because their **works were evil**. (*This holy light shined brightest where God’s judgment upon sin began: at Christ’s Cross.*)
- d. **\*Resurrection!** (Christ arose as “**firstfruits** from among the dead” to begin what would eventually include us all at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.)
- e. **\*Peace!**– We want world peace, but until He rules “all the nations with a rod of iron,” Jesus offers “peace on earth” in our hearts– John 16:33, “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.”

**TRANS:** [George Ladd in *The Presence of the Future*: Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> Advent was “an actual foretaste of [future] salvation. Jesus did not promise the forgiveness of sins; he bestowed it. He did not simply assure men of the future fellowship of the Kingdom; he invited men into fellowship with himself as the bearer of the Kingdom.”] At Christ’s arrival, the **future Kingdom** arrived, **calling for total allegiance to the King**. Instead of dreaming or debating about the future, we should be living in it, serving in it, rejoicing in it right now! *Jesus brought us...*

## II. The Voice of the Future

- A. Jesus *began* where John *left off*– v.15 “*The time has come,*” [Jesus] said. “*The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!*” (But He wasn’t just *another Messenger*; He *was the Message, the King*.)
- B. Listen to the present voice of the future King: “*the time has come*”
1. **The future Kingdom’s arrival calls for allegiance now!**
    - a. No *procrastination*, no *postponing*, no *dawdling* (Those waiting for a better time to follow Jesus are already behind schedule.)
    - b. God’s future started yesterday! [Paul quotes an OT prophet to explain when it’s *the best time to seek God*– 2 Cor 6:2. For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.]
  2. Jesus the King calls for dramatic change in our lives: “*Repent and believe the good news*” (There are 3 elements in this repentance:
    - a. *Acknowledging* that we’re going in the wrong direction;
    - b. *Changing directions* by putting trust in God instead of in self;
    - c. Adopting a “Kingdom” lifestyle (*Christ’s Gospel is not just a message to believe in but a message to obey*– 1 Pet 4:17, For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?)

**TRANS:** John said, “*The future is coming: repent!*” Jesus said, “*I am the future: repent!*” Many regret their sins; those *truly repenting regret them enough to turn from a sinful lifestyle*. Some say, “*I believe God exists.*” So do demons! True faith believes God is worthy of our worship and obedience. The Gospel’s benefits are great, but so is the price of our obedience to it. It means a cross, not just Christ’s but our own: a *death to self*. Jesus is the Voice of the future, calling us to *change*, to be totally *surrendered* to Him and His Kingdom. **AND His arrival brought...**

## III. The Vocation of the Future–v.17 “*Come, follow me,*” Jesus said, “*and I will make you fishers of men.*”

- A. Christ’s arrival calls for a change in location– “*Come...*”
1. Jesus made the first move; now it’s *our turn!*
  2. We respond to “Come” with “I will” or “I won’t” (no in-between).
  3. “*Come*” means, “*Move your investments from earth to heaven.*”
- B. Christ’s arrival calls for a change in position– “*follow me...*”
1. We give the driver’s seat to the King and let Him take the wheel.
  2. Our new position is at the Master’s feet learning His way of life!
- C. Christ’s arrival calls for a change in passion– “*I will make you fishers of men.*” (Jesus calls *each one of us* to share His “*good news.*”)
1. If His love controls us, we’ll want others to know Him. (His goal of spreading God’s love will become ours, if we “*follow*” Him.)
  2. And where would we be today, if His disciples hadn’t *followed*?– v.18, “*they left their nets*” (*Are there any “nets” we need to leave?*)
    - a. Family habits: “*I was raised to keep my religious beliefs private.*”– v.20, “*they left their father Zebedee in the boat*” (The plans our parents had for us aren’t always what God had in mind.)
    - b. What “*nets*” are *entangling us* from a passion for sharing Christ:
      - (1) Trivial preoccupations that have *no eternal value*?
      - (2) Addictive habits stealing *precious time* and *creative energy*.
      - (3) Worries about *things we can’t control* (such as, *what others will think about us*, if we try to share Christ’s message?)

**CONCLUSION:** The arrival of God’s future Kingdom calls for our **total allegiance**. One of the most important messages God has for the church today is that the future is already here, and Christians need to leave their “nets” and get back to the future!