

COURAGEOUS FAITH

"The most precious resource we all have is time." Steve Jobs

"The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." Michael Altshuler

Mark 1:15 (NIV) "The time has come," he said. *"The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Believers vs. Disciples

Mark 1:16 (NIV) *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 send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.*

WHY would someone follow with Courageous Faith?

1). Jesus taught with God's Authority.

²¹ *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.*

²² *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.*

2). Jesus healed with God's Power.

²³ *Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "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!"*

²⁵ *"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.*

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

3). Jesus loved with God's Love

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

⁴¹ Jesus was indignant (moved with pity, he felt sorry for him). He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

How do you cultivate a courageous faith?

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Two practical steps:

1). Spend time with God.

2). Don't be driven by the crowds.

This week: What's one courageous thing you will do this week?