

### IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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#### Lesson for January 16

##### BEGINNING A LIFE OF SERVICE

**LESSON TEXT**—Mark 1:14-23.  
**GOLDEN TEXT**—The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.—Mark 1:15.  
**PRIMARY TOPIC**—Jesus' First Helpers.  
**JUNIOR TOPIC**—Why the Fishermen Followed Jesus.  
**INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC**—Serving Now.  
**YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC**—Adjusting Life to Service.

The public ministry of our Lord was not begun with any great fanfare of publicity. Leaving Judea where the entrenched forces of formal religion had joined the forces of sin and degradation in opposition to him, and which had brought about the imprisonment of John, our Lord appears in his home country, Galilee.

##### I. Preaching the Gospel (vv. 14, 15, 21, 22).

His first activity is worthy of careful note, for it is not exactly what one might expect in this Gospel of Mark, which we have already characterized as the Gospel of mighty deeds rather than of words. Jesus came to work miracles, and he did work them, and continues to do the miraculous even in our day. It is therefore significant that his first recorded work was that of preaching, his second that of calling and preparing fellow workers, and last of all the miraculous healing of the demoniac.

From a human viewpoint one would think that the opposite order would prevail. First let the Master do some mighty miracle to catch the attention of the people, then organize a great "party," and then preach. Much of the so-called evangelistic effort in our day follows that human formula and fails of lasting results. Observe the man who magnifies preaching and gives the Word of God pre-eminence, and you will see real spiritual accomplishments.

Jesus preached faith and repentance, or perhaps one should say repentance and faith (v. 15). They go together in our Lord's preaching. Let us follow his example.

We read in verse 2 that the hearers were astonished because he spoke with authority. They had been accustomed to hearing the lawyers dispute on the basis of the authority of the law, now the law-giver himself stood in their midst. He did not set aside the law, but he gave it an interpretation and direction which surprised them.

##### II. Calling Disciples (vv. 16-20).

The orderly development of any work calls for the choosing and training of associates. Moody is said to have observed that "it is a greater thing to put ten men to work than it is to do ten men's work." Our Lord was no mere human leader, but he desired and used fellow-workers and he committed to them the carrying on of his work after he departed.

God still calls men into his service. Would that grace might be given to each one to whom such a call may come to respond "straightway," as did the disciples. The writer has just read the letter of a heart-broken man who has refused to answer God's call for four long years, and now comes with a broken body which may hinder his usefulness for life. Such tragedies may be averted by prompt and willing obedience.

##### III. Healing the Demoniac (vv. 23-26).

Three things stand out in this story. The first is that the Son of God has power over the demons of Satan. Any effort to "fight the Devil" in our own power is foredoomed to failure. But in the name of Jesus Christ we may bid him depart from us. Thank God, it works!

The other thought is also of vital import. The demons recognized Jesus, they knew that he was "the Holy One of God" (v. 24), and they bore public testimony of that fact. And yet they were demons, the enemies of God. Saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is more than a knowledge of his claims, a pious repetition of his name even though it be done in public. Let us make sure that we have a living faith in the Son of God.

Our final observation is that our Lord did not permit the demons to testify concerning him. Christ and his church do not need the flattering words or the financial support of unbelievers. Every time we accept them we weaken our testimony and make ourselves ridiculous before the world. If unbelievers think well of Christ let them show their sincerity by seeking him as Saviour and Lord. Then both they and their gifts will be acceptable and to his glory.

##### Physical Handicaps

The failure to overcome our physical handicaps is only one of many indications that few of us ever discover ourselves.

##### Secing Ourselves

We see time's furrows on another's brow; how few themselves, in that just mirror, see!—Young.

##### Pleasures

A man that knows how to mix pleasures with business, is never entirely possessed by them.

### No Extreme Cold During December

No extreme cold weather was recorded in Beaufort during the month of December, although there were fewer clear days than in any month of the past year. On three days the temperature dropped below 32 degrees. Eighteen days were recorded as clear and only on one day did it rain. The temperature recorded day by day were as follows:

	Max.	Min.
1	60	46
2	56	40
3	43	32
4	53	32
5	55	35
6	54	44
7	48	28
8	49	31
9	48	36
10	44	30
11	—	—
12	48	38
13	43	32
14	44	32
15	45	31
16	60	35
17	65	47
18	60	52
19	57	46
20	55	34
21	53	39
22	54	37
23	55	46
24	57	45
25	57	43
26	62	32
27	59	32
28	61	48
29	56	49
30	63	39
31	53	39

### SMITH & BROWN

(Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of articles in which two farmers discuss the agricultural conservation program.)

John Brown: "Under the program they don't want you to go over your soil-depleting goal, but they do want you to plant all the acreage of soil-depleting crops that are allowed in your goal."

Bill Smith: "Why?"  
Brown: "If we don't plant enough cotton, tobacco, corn, wheat and the like, there won't be enough to supply the demand. That will make prices go up too high."

That will be hard on the consumer, and it will mean that this country will have to spend money to buy agricultural commodities from other countries.

"In other words, the United States will be sending money abroad to buy crops that we farmers here should be growing and selling."

Smith: "You're right. I hadn't thought about that. We don't want to go hungry here, and we want to keep our money at home."

Brown: "And if we grow too much we will be wasting a lot of hard work, and wasting our land too. But if we don't want to wear out our soil growing a lot of stuff nobody will buy at a decent price."

Smith: "I've had enough of that. Look what I've done to my land. It's plumb worn out in places. And I haven't made a decent living in it."

Brown: "But if we stick by the program, production will be kept in line with demand, prices will be at a fair level, and we will have a chance to take care of our land like we ought to."

Smith: "That's what we've been needing for years. We'd be a lot better off today if this program had been started a long time ago."

### My Neighbor

Says:

Stuff celery with chopped ham mixed with relish salad dressing.

To prevent peeled apples turning dark while standing, cover them with salt water.

Tightly box candies and confections. Sprinkle nuts, candied fruit peels and stuffed dates in corners of box.

Rub the rope in window cords once or twice a year with well-oiled cloth. This preserves cord and allows window to slip up and down more easily.

If boiled frosting does not thicken, place in a bowl in a basin of hot water and allow water to boil around the bowl for five minutes, stirring constantly.

When poinsettia leaves start to turn yellow, it is probably because they are in a room where the temperature is below 70 to 80 degrees and plant has become chilled. Set pot in a pan of water of room temperature until soil and plant are warmed.

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#### Light Measuring Unit

A parsec is the unit of measurement, like an inch or a yard, which denotes space in terms of "light years." A parsec is equal to three and one-quarter light years. Light travels 186,000 miles per second. Therefore the distance of one parsec from us would equal 186,000 X 60 X 60 X 24 X 365 X 3/4 miles.

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AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DECEMBER 31, 1937

### RESOURCES

Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	\$ 7,077,687.54
U. S. Government Securities	2,096,275.00
State Bonds	3,761,500.00
Municipal Bonds	3,156,646.43
Federal Land Bank and Other	
Marketable Securities	1,502,387.16
	\$10,516,808.59
Less: Reserve	315,716.47
	10,201,092.12
Accrued Interest on Bonds	110,627.44
Loans Secured by Marketable Collateral	1,401,638.52
Other Loans and Discounts	2,184,636.76
	3,586,275.28
Banking Houses, Furniture and Fixtures	305,252.79
Less: Reserve a-c Depreciation	35,154.44
	270,098.35
Other Assets	34,702.61
	\$21,280,483.34

### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock:	
Preferred	\$495,000.00
Common	267,650.00
	762,650.00
Surplus	500,000.00
Undivided Profits	178,514.40
Reserve a-c: Preferred Stock Retirement Fund	95,000.00
Reserve a-c: Accrued and Unearned Interest, Taxes, etc.	317,246.59
DEPOSITS	\$19,427,072.35
	\$21,280,483.34

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