

# KEY INGREDIENTS

## SHARE

Have you ever been judged by someone? How did they judge you? How did it feel?

## SEEK

### Non-Judgmental Christianity

Given the location, Galilee was known as a nice port area for commerce. This especially includes the catching and selling of fish. In Mark 1.16-20, Jesus passes along the Sea of Galilee and encounters some of these fisherman/future disciples (Simon and his brother Andrew). They were there casting their nets when Jesus gives them a unique call.

So much is striking about this passage. It is not just that Jesus seems to call these men out of nowhere (although Simon and Andrew had probably at least heard of this Jesus), but the “who” and “how” of the call. Let’s start with the “who.” Jesus is calling fisherman. There is a chance that Simon and Andrew “flunked out” of school, never accurately attending to the Scriptures and Jewish tradition as well as their peers. This is why they’re fishing for fish and not people.

The “how” is equally interesting. Jesus offers these men a chance to apprentice under Him, using terminology familiar to them. He is meeting them where they are and at the same time pulling them in to something really big. Not to mention, Jesus is a Rabbi. In that day it was rare for a Rabbi to ask for followers. Usually, students would approach a Rabbi and face an initial interview process by answering questions either to his liking or disliking. The Rabbi would then decide if the student would become his follower.

What we see from this passage, then, gives us pause about the importance of a judgment-free Christianity. Jesus called some teenage dropouts to be His followers, and He did it in a way they could hear Him. He did not exclude them, nor did He give a superior display of power to let these teens know how “below” Him they were. Jesus was hospitable, humble, and judgment-free.

# SEE

JUDGMENT-FREE CHRISTIANITY

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD SOMEONE SAY, "DON'T JUDGE ME"? WHAT DO THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY THIS?

IS IT RIGHT TO JUDGE OTHERS? IS CHRISTIANITY AN "ANYTHING GOES" RELIGION? IT IS RIGHT TO INCLUDE THE EXCLUDED, BUT IS THERE A BOUNDARY THAT SAYS YOU'VE GONE "TOO FAR"? WHAT IS THAT BOUNDARY? READ MATTHEW 7.1-5 FOR HELP.

IT SEEMS LIKE JESUS DID NOT JUDGE BASED ON EXTERNAL APPEARANCES. WHAT DOES JESUS' APPROACH TO SIMON AND ANDREW TEACH YOU ABOUT BEING JUDGMENT-FREE?

A GOOD PRACTICE THIS WEEK IS WHEN YOU ARE IN A SITUATION WHERE YOU FEEL DEFENSIVE OR JUDGMENTAL ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, ASK QUESTIONS INSTEAD OF DRAWING IMMEDIATE CONCLUSIONS. ENGAGE IN A CONVERSATION INSTEAD OF FLEEING THE SCENE.

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another