



Mark Chapter 1...

ESV, emphasis added

- 9-12. In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, **immediately** he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." 12 The Spirit **immediately** drove him out into the wilderness.
- 16-20. Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And **immediately** they left their nets and followed him. 19 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. 20 And **immediately** he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

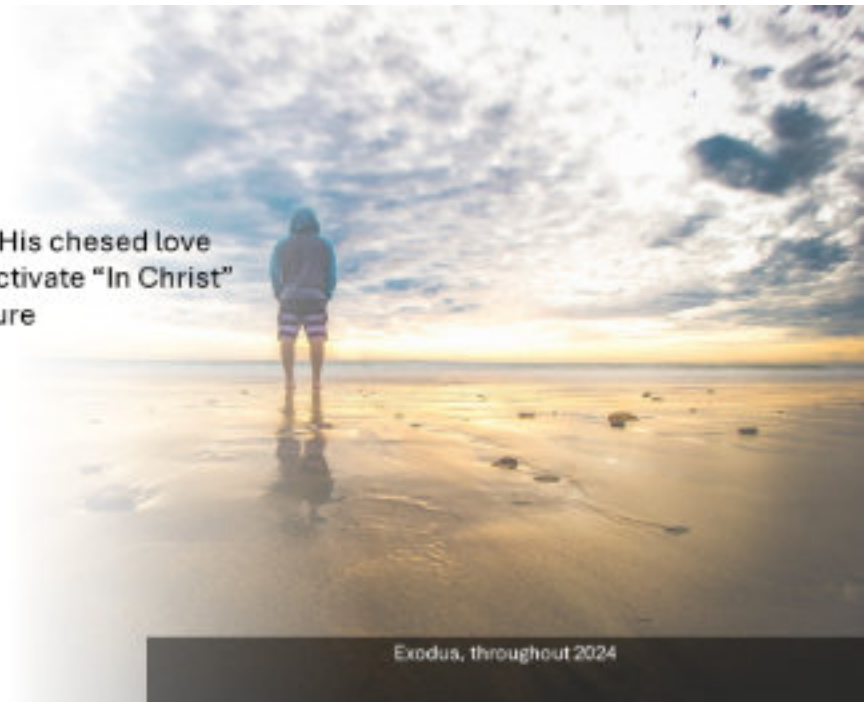
Mark Chapter 1...

ESV, emphasis added

- 21-23. And they went into Capernaum, and **immediately** on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And **immediately** there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit.
- 29-31. And **immediately** he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and **immediately** they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- 40-42. And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." 42 And **immediately** the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Abide

- To know Christ and His chesed love
 - Grow, solidify, activate "In Christ"
 - Create that culture
 - Proximity
 - Presence
 - Intimacy
 - Trust
 - Believe
 - Risk



Exodus, throughout 2024

Follow

- Jesus, as Lord and King
 - Separate unto Him
- Jesus, as Head
 - In life
 - In marriage and family
 - In church and in church life
- Surrender, submit
 - Prioritize time, treasure, talent

Exodus, throughout 2024

Abandon

- In praise
- In worship
- In prayer
- In gifts of the Spirit
- Opinions
- Beliefs
- Doctrines
- Certainty: Know and trust God (no net)
- To God The Holy Spirit as person
- Traditions and comfortability
- Church as usual (conventional)
- Self-consciousness
- Beliefs that are barriers (actual, mental, emotional, etc.)
- Expectations (our own and others')
- Relationships
- Money, status, possessions as god
- Substances
- Strongholds
- Bondages
- People (even friends and relatives?)

Exodus, throughout 2024

Table Time

Simon, Andrew, James and John
(and those who came later)
had causes to resist or to delay
WAY more intense than we do, and
faced adversity WAY bigger than ours.

- **Why did they say, "Yes", follow immediately and abandon all else?**
- **What's stopping us from doing so?**

May new horizons beckon
Out beyond the familiar
Out beyond the comfortable
Out beyond even the sensible

May we become magnetized
To the pull of there's gotta be more
To the certainty of hope
To the treasures of new perspectives
To the freedom to think in new ways

May we climb out from
The pit of offense
The ditch of disappointment
The mudhole of fatigue
The quicksand of the past

May we loosen and leave
The disabilities of what we perceive
The chains of regret and condemnation
The shackles of the practical and manageable
The iron bars of others' opinions and expectations
The prison yard of reality as life has tried to define it

May we unearth
Divine discontent and dissatisfaction
Dusty and dormant dreams and visions
The who God created each of us to be
The one pure life force beyond our own

2024

May we discover and pursue
Deeper wells of God's goodness
Things eternally right and true
Divine encounters and intersections
A true and trustworthy tribe

So let's face whatever we gotta face
Let's chase what's worthy to chase
Let's bumble and fumble
Let's tumble and tumble
No matter what or when
Let's rise and rise again

Throughout this coming new year
Let's seek God's grace
Let's put His countenance upon another's face
Let's see "together" in whole new ways
Let's receive God's love and truth anew
Let's boldly rethink "me n' you"

I love you. Yes, you.