

“Something Bigger than Us”

A sermon by Dan Harrison, 1/21/18 (Mark 1:14-20)

Why do we fish?

- 1) To feed ourselves
- 2) To sell our fish to make money for ourselves
- 3) For recreational enjoyment for ourselves

Why do we fish for others?

- 1) For the sake of others
 - a. A Step Further: “Give a person a fish, they eat for a day. Teach them to fish, they eat for a lifetime” –addendum “Teach them to teach others to fish, change the world.”
 - i. Equivalent to—a builder, a tax collector, a farmer
 - b. *Journey of a Lifetime* – “...a central part of its vision was set: the church of Jesus Christ exists not for itself but for the sake of service in and to the world.”
 - i. Presupposition: the authenticity of “in” and “to” as intentional descriptors
 - c. Shift from WIIFM to WIIFE (What’s In It For Me; What’s In It For Everyone)
 - i. Paradigm shift defined (1962, Thomas Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*)

The world, pre-Mark 1:

- 1) I only care about me

The world, post-Mark 1:

- 1) **I care about the world**
 - a. Peter Renner in his book *The Church of the Savior*, writes of Gordon Cosby saying “...there are going to be two questions... to work with at our death. Firstly, God will ask us, ‘What part did you play in being with and creating the authentic people that I have been trying to shape for 3,700 years?’ Secondly, ‘Did you really come to love the least of these...?’” (*Tikkun-olam* – fixing the world?)
 - i. Bedford Hills Elementary, Freedom School, etc.
 - b. Jesus immediately began to Love the world in Mark 1. Preaching the “good news” in a context of healing mental illness, the sick, and defending the poor.
 - c. “Radiate boundless love towards the entire world.” –Buddha (*Karaniya Metta Sutta*)

Be Bigger than just Us, Light the Whole Sky:

“Even, After, All this time. The Sun never says to the earth, ‘You owe me’. Look what happens. With a love like that, It lights the Whole Sky.” –Hafiz (Sufi Poet)