



# Jesus Begins His Ministry

Mark 1:14-45

Unwind

## AN ASTONISHING FIND: MAN DEVELOPS ANTIQUE CAMERA FILM NEARLY A DECADE OLD

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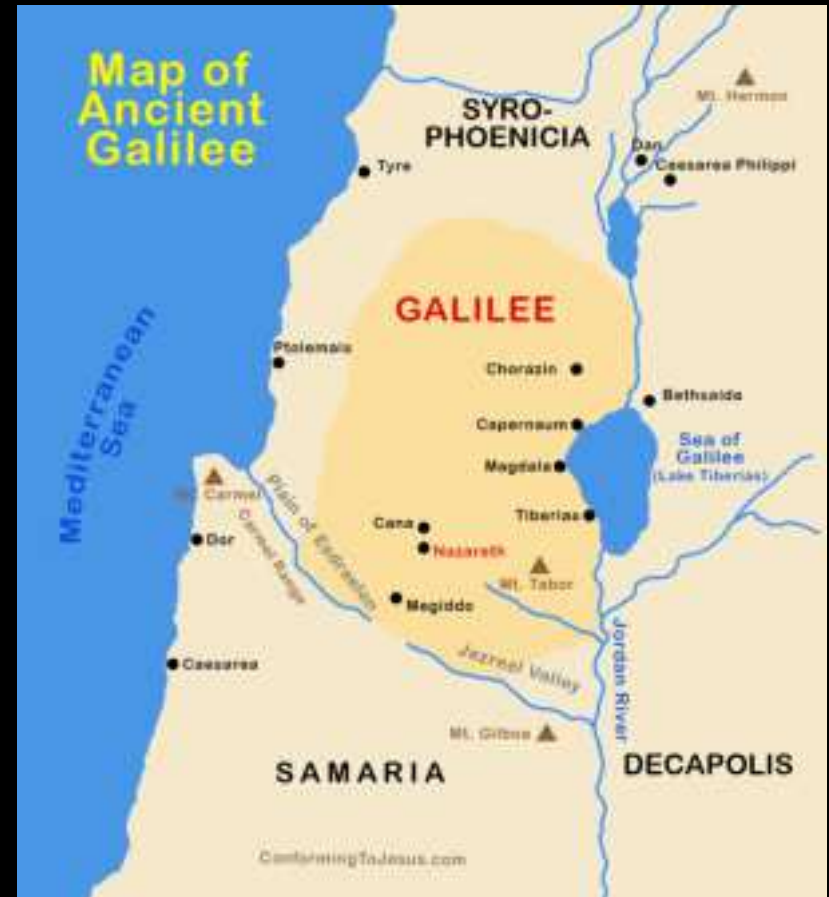


An Astonishing Find Man Develops Antique Camera Film Nearly A Decade Old

Unwinding the camera reel carefully in the darkroom, Martijn van Oers could never have imagined what he was about to stumble onto. All

## Mark 1:14-45

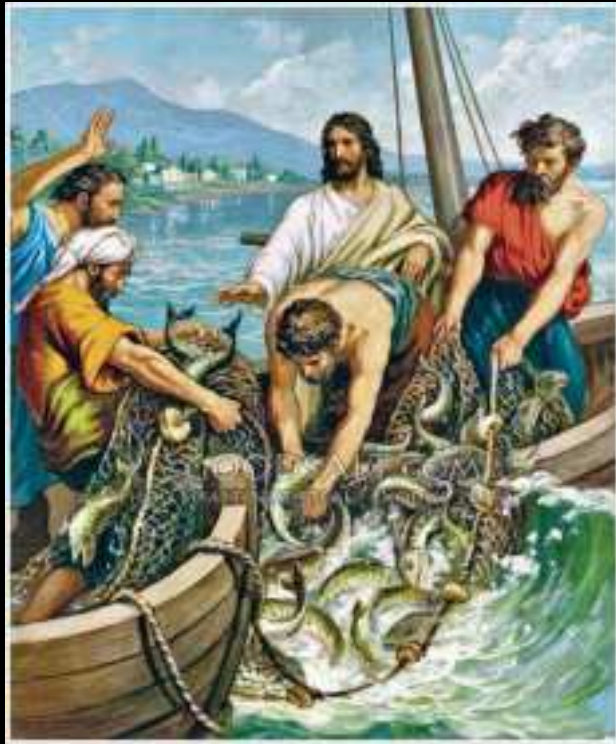
- <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.
- <sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'



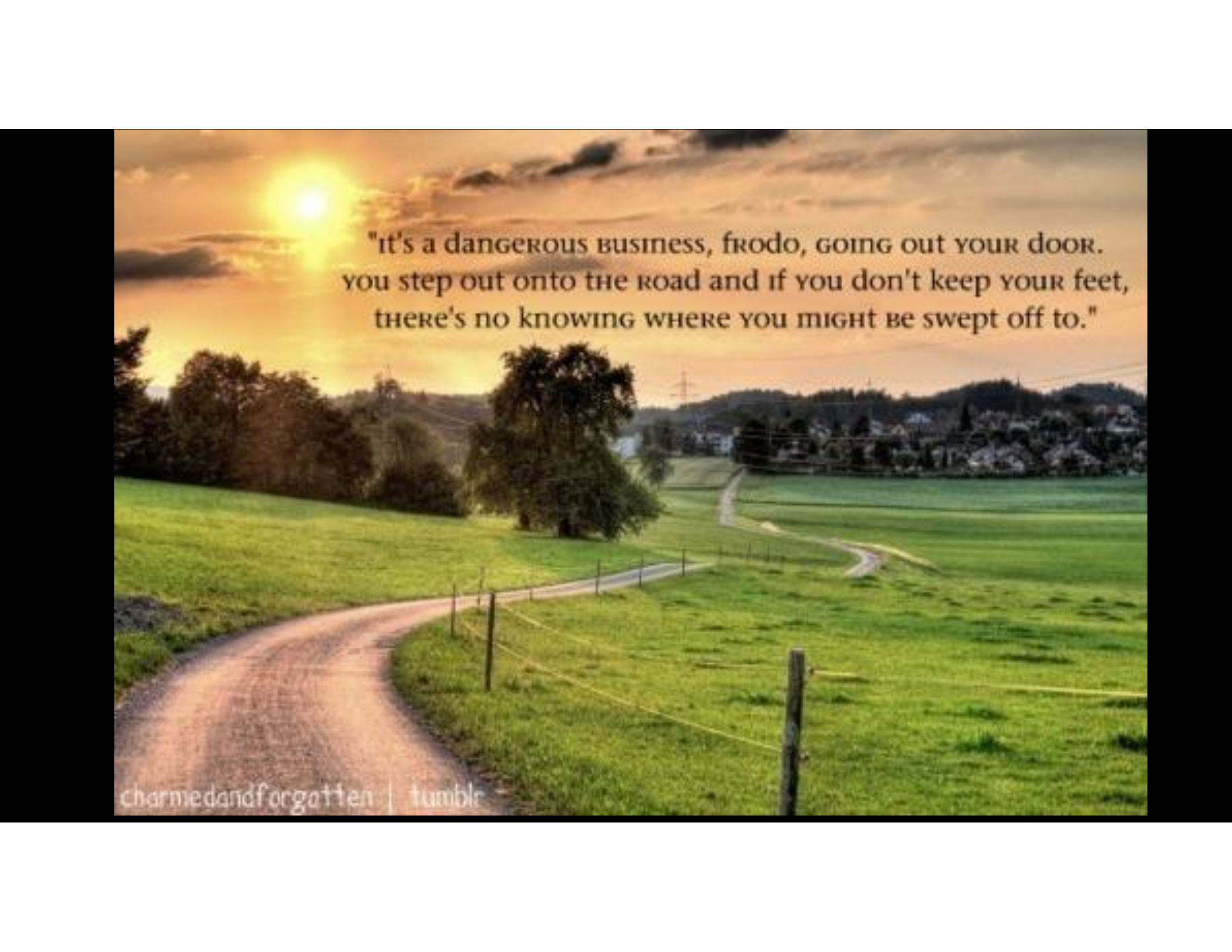
# The Message of the Kingdom

- The word “proclaim” means to herald or announce.
- The kingdom of God is the “governing activity of God as ruler; the time and sphere in which God’s kingly power will hold sway”
  - Chris Marshall, Kingdom Come

# The Calling of the Disciples



- Luke 5 tells us about a miraculous catch of fish.
- John 1 tells us that Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. A dirt road winds through lush green fields, leading towards a small village or town in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

"it's a dangerous business, frodo, going out your door.  
you step out onto the road and if you don't keep your feet,  
there's no knowing where you might be swept off to."

# The Calling of the Disciples

- “Disciples are not those who simply fill pews at worship ... they are not merely eavesdroppers and onlookers. When one is hooked by Jesus, one’s whole life and purpose in life are transformed... Discipleship in Mark is not part-time volunteer work on one’s own terms and convenience. One must be prepared to leave everything to follow him.”

- David Garland, Mark



# The Power of God

- <sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.





# The Power of God

- <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all who were ill and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door.
- These miracles were tangible signs of the coming kingdom. One day the world will be freed from both spiritual evil and physical suffering. Every time Jesus healed or delivered someone, he was pointing to the day when this kingdom would be fully revealed.
- *“It may seem fantastic to us; but the ancient peoples believed implicitly in demons ... even if there are no such things as demons.”*
  - William Barclay

# The Power of God



- Two dangers:
- Danger of seeing demons behind every affliction.
- Danger of dismissing the spiritual forces at work in our world.

# The Power of God

- <sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.'
- <sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant.[or filled with compassion - same word] He reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.
- Jesus is not someone who was aloof floating around dispensing miracles from a safe distance. He immersed himself in human misery.
- <sup>3</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> 'See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.'

# The Practice of Prayer

- <sup>35</sup> 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.
- <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'
- How's your prayer life?



# The Practice of Prayer



- Why is prayer so hard?
- Some suggestions:
  - Have a regular time and place for prayer
  - Keep a notebook to record prayer requests and insights from Scripture
  - Have a gratitude journal

# Points for us to ponder

- The Message of the Kingdom: Do we think of and preach a gospel as merely going to heaven when we die or the rule and reign of God that we are all invited to be part of?
- The Calling of the Disciples: Have we responded to Jesus' call to come follow him? Are we seeking to become fishers of people?
- The Power of God: Are we reaching out with love and compassion to the needy among us? Can we believe God to do miracles once in a while?
- The Practice of Prayer: What is the next step for us in prayer?

- “The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused him of being a bore - on the contrary, they thought him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified him "meek and mild" and recommended him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies.”
- Dorothy Sayers

