

2023 Vision Series

A Vision for Formation & Fire

Mark 1:14-20

01.15.2023

Dave Lomas

Mark 1:14-20

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you become fishers of people.” When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

“The flourishing and happy life does not happen accidentally. It must be sought after. And the means of pursuit is the life of discipleship to a philosophy, a way of seeing and being in the world that is pursued and practiced. First become aware of yourself; then turn away from foolish and non-life-giving habits and thoughts (in biblical language, ‘repent’); and then, over time, learn new ways of living through failures and successes in practice.”

- Jonathan Pennington, *Jesus the Great Philosopher*



Practices of Presence

Prayer
Scripture
Sabbath
Fasting

Practices of Participation

Hospitality
Generosity
Community
Vocation

Our Telos: Union with God and becoming a person of love.

Our Rule of Life

You are becoming someone.

“In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And the compelling reason for maybe choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship...is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you. On one level, we all know this stuff already. It's been codified as myths, proverbs, clichés, epigrams, parables; the skeleton of every great story. The whole trick is keeping the truth up front in daily consciousness. Worship power and you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart—you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. The insidious thing about these forms of worship is not that they're evil or sinful; it is that they are unconscious. They are default settings. They're the kind of worship you just gradually slip into, day after day, getting more and more selective about what you see and how you measure value without ever being fully aware that that's what you're doing.”

- David Foster Wallace

Reshaping Our Loves (Formation):

1. Find what you were created to love
2. Orient your entire life towards it

“You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds rest in you.”

- St. Augustine

Mark 1:17

And Jesus said to them, “Come, follow me, and I will make you into fishers of people.”

“The second idea that comes from this ancient view of philosophy is that...we need models in community. To learn how the world works and how to live well requires teachers—people who have the capacity, training, and years of life experience, combined with virtue and integrity, who can serve as instructors and models. This is what a philosopher is. Philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle gathered disciples around them who wanted to learn their wisdom—knowledge of both what the world is and how to live practically in it. Soon this gathering of learners became formalized in schools where young men and women gathered in cities (especially Athens) to live with the philosopher and other disciples. They intentionally exercised the body and the mind, shaping habits and the heart. From the time of Plato on, it was understood that philosophy ‘could be carried out only by means of a community of life and dialogue between masters and disciples, within the framework of a school.’”

- Jonathan Pennington, *Jesus the Great Philosopher*

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“I saw him and sought him and I had him and lacked him and this is and should be our ordinary undertaking in this life.”

- Julian of Norwich