The Heart of the Matter
“Do you want your life to count for something?” The question was as intriguing in the first century as it is today. In the early days of His ministry, Jesus extended an invitation to the crowds that hung around looking for a miracle. “Follow Me!” He called. And a few did—and they turned the world upside down. In this passage set by a lake in the countryside of Galilee, we look closely at Jesus’s focused ministry and at His encounter with the first four men whom He called to be a part of His team. We learn from their reactions to His invitation, as they understood and followed—immediately. The ultimate question, however, is how will you respond when He calls?

Discovering the Way
1. The Passing of Time (Mark 1:14–15)
At the beginning of Jesus’s ministry, John the Baptist was arrested and incarcerated, and Jesus began proclaiming the good news of hope, peace, truth, and eternal life.

2. The Calling of Four Disciples (Mark 1:16–20)
Jesus invited fishermen Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, and they left their nets . . . immediately.

Starting Your Journey
Today, Jesus asks three penetrating questions of each of us. Where does His invitation find you? What is His calling in your life? How long will it take you to say yes?