Sermon: **The right time has come** (Mark 1.15)

Many young people do not wear a watch. they use their phones instead.

Many (including me!) get worked up about starting on time, arriving on time, ending on time.

This is not true of many cultures.

Greeks had two words for time – chronos (= passage of moments) and kairos (*the* moment).

It is easy to confuse the two. The former does not really matter, usually.

The latter is important. TEXT – Jesus is using kairos.

Sometimes we feel the pressure to act or speak, knowing it is a one-off opportunity. “Shall I ask this girl out?”; “Shall I put up my hand?”; “Do I step in and say something?”

Acting on this impulse leads to a sense of elation; not doing so leads to a sense of letting yourself down.

Asking Sharon, my wife, out for the first time took a lot of courage, and led to elation!!

TEXT – Jesus gives the disciples a chance to act decisively – **Come with me** (Mark 1.17)

Today we are constantly bombarded by information. We have TV shopping channels, advert breaks, newspapers and magazines, circular post, emails (including spam), Facebook, twitter…

Rather than making life easier, life becomes exhausting, we feel stretched, overwhelmed.

The Call of God feels like one more demand, one more thing to process. More exhaustion.

TEXT. Today we tend not to respond to God for two reasons

[1] The Call is seen as yet another demand - is it truly God whom we are hearing?

[2] The Call is uncomfortable, not fitting our view of things.

2 responses: [1] God wants to be heard, and [2] God’s call is true freedom, the kairos that leads to elation.

It might have been easier in Simon and Andrew’s day, but the Call was just as frightening.

St Augustine of Hippo: **Eternal God, who are the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom, in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

What might God be calling you to do today, or tomorrow? Will you believe the Call? Will you say ‘yes’?