When Home No More Is Home

Mk. 1:9-11

Intro. A. In a carpenter shop in Nazareth, a young man brushes shavings from apron, folds it upon work bench, says farewell to James, Simon, Joseph, Jude, his sisters, their mother Mary; turns south across fertile plain of Esdraelon, then down 2,000 ft. to Jordan Valley where a rough prophet of God holds a crowd spellbound by his power to make men see they stand before God who is even now breaking in upon history.

Family doesn't understand. When called a man away in way God wants for family to hear.

B. Do not know if act of Jesus sudden or slow but do know it decisive. Returned to Nazareth, but it not home.

I The Decision.

A. What forces moved him to this home?

1. Some turn from home in reaction against empty poverty, plush dissipation, loss of respect for parents.
2. Some to discover self apart from home, their name pronounced by others.

B. We have indications had a normal home.

1. Know little. Silent years became he was child as and can't hear roots growing.
2. He subject to laws of human growth.
3. We have looked into that home for signs of the extraordinary + wondrous; we refuse to believe in achievement of honest labor + so depose our own stunted growth.
4. Not raised in Hebrew cage from labor, child's disappointment, mind of contradiction.
5. As a child he a child. Mother pondered, respected mystery of her child, did not insist he be like all other children.
6. Being a normal home, it provided resources to grow past low ceiling.

C. and probably then the synagogue God stirred him.

1. He regular in attendance, what do for him?
2. Worship creates tensions between what is + what ought to be. Not to be realistic; idealistic; Create pain at the discontinuity. What has happened that why. a way to get used to dark; members are passengers, connoisseurs of good sermons, seeking pleasure, enlightenment, improvement.
3. When this done, some stirred to throw selves in breach between sky + earth. This a cross!

strong feelings, not mediocrity; serving | issue. every | tea to pros + cons on Tragic but not trivial! Rather a purpose than outing

D. And, of course, he was drawn by what was before him.

1. Word has come of John's preaching.
2. Now must march; hears the distant drum.
3. Future may not all be clear, but this is God's

will and it must be done.

E. And so he comes; left low ceiling of home and quiet Nazareth and gives self to main stream of God's purpose in history.

1. No reason offered for exemption; no exceptions.
2. If a man would be used of God, identify self with God's work.
3. Unreserved surrender to God and His Kg'dom.

II The Benefits of That Decision.

A. Heavens opened. Clearer vision of God's purpose.

1. Obedience precedes understanding.
2. God's will? We all attend class to understand, yet cannot in vision blurred. Eye not single. Not lack of I.Q. but of commitment.

B. Spirit descends.

1. Empowered for life's demands.
2. Released from loss of energy thru self preservation, self esteem, self indulgence.
3. Creative force for chr. character and mission.

C. Voice of assurance.

1. God's approval and acceptance. These words worth more than all advice & comfort.
2. No greater desire in human heart than this.

Concl.-

A. Never comes to him who is at home, adjusted his goals, thoughts, plans to low ceiling. No agony over world's pain; no tears at world's sorrow; no wounds in world's wars; prefers next to the air; ground to sky; status quo to Kg'dom;

B. In every generation, a voice cries in wilderness; a drum beats in distance.
He who hears and comes, may have life that is tragic, but never trivial.