

FOLLOWING JESUS

ARE YOU IN THE CROWD OR THE CALLED?

MARK 3:7-19

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – NOVEMBER 14, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 3:7-19

7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea 8 and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. 9 And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, 10 for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." 12 And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

13 And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. 14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons. 16 He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); 17 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); 18 Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

SERMON RECAP

To be a disciple is to be with Jesus. And, to be a disciple is to be sent out by Jesus, personally appointed by Him for His purpose.

SERMON MAIN POINTS

THE CROWD	THE CALLED
They saw Jesus as a means to an end.	They realized Jesus is the end.
They came because of all that Jesus could do for them.	They came because they realized Jesus desired them.
They only focus on what they can receive from Jesus.	They ultimately realize they are representatives of Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Looking carefully at the passage, what can we observe about “the crowd?” Take some time to share your observations from Mark 3:7-10.
- Looking carefully at the passage, what can we observe about “the called?” Take some time to share your observations from Mark 3:13-19.
- In verse 12, Mark tells us that Jesus withdraws from the crowd and orders the unclean spirits “not to make Him known.” Jesus is the Son of God, yet the unclean spirits were not given authority to proclaim Him. Now consider Mark 3:14 and Matthew 28:18-20. To whom does Jesus give authority and for what purpose?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Has Jesus ever been a “means to an end” for you? How so? Share this with your group.
- How can we stoke our desire for Christ Himself over our desire for what He can give or provide?
- Read Colossians 1:28 and 1 Corinthians 1:23. We are to proclaim Christ. When sharing our faith, how are we tempted to present the gospel in a way that offers what Jesus can give instead of offering Jesus Himself? How might we more carefully share the gospel in a way that clearly proclaims Christ?

LEADER NOTES ON MARK 3:7-19

“Crowds come to Jesus from Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, across the Jordan, and Tyre and Sidon—a geographical area that matches that of the Israel of old (see Isa 43:5-6), because they have heard what Jesus was doing. Mark’s summary repeated earlier themes. Jesus’ popularity brings a crush of people, and it is so overwhelming that he needs to have a boat ready to escape. While the crowd falls on him to receive the benefits of his healing power, the demons fall before him and are muzzled by the power of his word. As in the first exorcism of an impure spirit (1:23-28), the impure spirits recognize that he is the Holy One of God.

Jesus whittles down the large crowd to a limited group of twelve, whom he calls to be with him. [One scholar] points out the parallel with God calling Moses from the mountain (Exod 19:3). When Jesus ‘calls’ from the mountaintop, ‘he assumes a similar mantle of sovereign authority’. These elected disciples will become the ‘entrusted leaders among God’s people’, who will expand his ministry as he sends them out to preach to have authority over impure spirits”

—David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*, 116.

PRAYER

The New City Catechism Devotional, 139

Maker of heaven and earth, make the startling claims of our faith come alive to us. Let us not divorce theological truth from the history of your salvation, which occurred in time and space. Let us not waver in unbelief, but rest our lives upon the truth that you raise the dead. Amen.