

MARK 3:6-19

REVIEW:

- At this early point in Mark we have seen many great things.
- John Baptist ministry, Jesus baptized
- Jesus' wilderness temptation
- Jesus calls the 4 first disciples
- Jesus casts out the unclean spirit in the synagogue
- Jesus heals Peter's mother in-law
- The whole community of Capernaum experience healing and deliverance.
- Jesus cleanses a leper
- Jesus forgives and heals the paralytic
- Jesus calls Levi/Matthew the tax collector
- His proclamation that He is the Bridegroom and Lord of the Sabbath
- Jesus heals the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath
- And from the beginning we see a growing resistance in all these wonderful events from the scribes and Pharisees until they finally partner up with the Herodian's and plot Jesus death
- He is constantly being stalked and pressured

READ 3:6-19

INTRO:

- The crowds hearing the great, great things Jesus was doing, have continued to grow in number and now seek Him from an outrageously large area.
- Idumea, Jerusalem, and Judea in the South, from the east beyond Jordan, west from the coasts of the Mediterranean sea, Sidon and Tyre, and north covering all of Galilee. (vs 7, 8)
- The disciples prepare a small boat in case Jesus should need to distance Himself from the frenzy of the growing crowd lest they crush Him
- He healed many and they pressed in to try and touch Him, demons also were cast out and tried to confess Him as the Son of God.
- He orders the demons to hold their peace.
- Jesus goes up into a mountain and spends the whole night in prayer. (Lk. 6:13)
- The need has grown to the point where Jesus now instigates His plan to appoint His team of 12 Apostles.
- What a contrast of human hearts is seen in Vs. 6 -19.
- The Pharisees seek to destroy Him and end His ministry.
- While His disciples seek to take up and expand His ministry by dedicating their lives to Him.
- How true is the verse, "the carnal mind is hostile against God. (Rom. 8:7)

- Be careful, for the carnal mind wars against our spiritual mind, and if not kept nailed to cross, put to death, it will lead us into compromise, sin and death.
- This carnal hostility will make us dislike His goodness, our pride challenge His authority, our evil can despise His purity and the purity of His people.
- The two great pillars upon which true scriptural Christianity rest are; the greatness of our fall, and the greatness of our redemption. Until you are renewed in the spirit of your mind, your virtues are only taught practices and grafted upon a corrupt bottom. Everything that you do will be a mixture of good and evil, your humility will help you to pride, your love to others will give nourishment to your own self-love, and as your prayers increase so will the opinion of your own sanctity. Because until the heart is purified to the bottom and has felt the ax at the root of its evil, (which cannot be done by outward instruction) everything that proceeds from it partakes of its impurity and corruption.
- Do not despise the Pharisees as sinners above all men, use them as a mirror in which to see how evil and deadly our own self will is if not kept under.

JESUS CHOSE HIS DISCIPLES: 13-15

- The number of the chosen disciples has significance. Israel originally was founded on the 12 tribes, the sons of Jacob. These 12 tribes made up the nation of Israel.
- By Jesus selecting 12 men He was sending an unmistakable message to the leaders of Israel that they had been spiritually disqualified as He the Son of God begins something new.
- It was a statement regarding God's judgment, dissatisfaction of Israel's as a nation full of unbelief and rebellion.
 - (Mt. 21:43)
- At this point in time the nation of Israel was being rejected by God for they had rejected Him, His statutes and His Messiah.
- The scribes and Pharisees were to be God's caretakers, shepherds to Israel and Judaism, but they had rejected their god and Messiah and for this God rejected them.
- The Nation no longer represented God. They themselves and their converts had become sons of hell due to their misrepresentation of God. (Mt. 23:15)
- Their repeated substitution of the traditions of men for the will and commands of God proved themselves to be children of the devil and unfit to be caretakers of the life of God. (Jn. 8:44)
- The 12 men God chose were completely different than the professional Pharisee or scribe. None came out of religious establishment or were supermen. (1 Cor. 1: 26-29)
- These 12 men did not volunteer, Jesus chose and called them. (JN 15:16) you did not choose Me, but I have chosen you.

- In choosing the 12 He first spends the night in prayer confirming with the Father His choice of the 12. Out of the many He appoints 12. (vs. 13)
- Only He could know the hearts of men, not just in the excitement of the moment but to the end of their days. (Jn. 2:24, 25)
 - He knew false commitments: (Lk. 9:57-62)
- At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus confirms the omniscience of the choices the Father and He made.
 - Six times saying "those whom you have given me" and in Jn. 17: 12, 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
- 11 of these men plus one, would be responsible for the spread of the gospel around the world, and the establishment of sound church doctrine and laying the foundation of the church.
- And by the power of the Spirit of God they would turn the world upside down.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE:

- Disciple basically means "learner", student, apprentice, thus showing that they had made a conscience decision to follow Jesus as their teacher.
- One who professes to receive instruction from another. To adhere to His doctrine.
- It indicates thought accompanied with endeavor., adherence to the teachings and doctrines and having a life likeness.
- It implies the acceptance in the mind and life of the views, teachings and practices of the teacher.
- Notice it does not say a listener, though they are, nor does it say or mean to be an attender, just showing up..... but a learner.
- Someone who hears and does, they apply what they hear.
- To be hearing, teachable and responsive, be intentional.
- (Mt.11:29) Learn of/from me. Not only from Me but know Me.
- Is there something in my life I have not obeyed God about? I have put it off, sweeping it under the carpet of my conscience rather than face it? Do it this week. Be a disciple.
- Be a learner. Put into practice what I have heard.
- To be His disciple. Mt. 16:24
- Though Jesus was followed by scores of disciples many were only disciples in name. They were surface deep disciples. Being attracted to His authority over demons, diseases and sickness and notoriety.
- They were impressed with His superiority over the Pharisees and scribes. But these would eventually leave and abandon Him. (Jn. 6:60-69)

HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE? WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE? DO?

- Jesus answers these three questions for us in Vs. 13 & 15.

1) They are called. VS. 13

2) They spend time with Jesus. VS. 14

- He appointed them "that they might be with Him." Vs. 14
- The disciples first calling is to be with Jesus. From there all else flows.
- To be closer to Him than some of His followers and for sure the curious crowds.
- Spending quality time alone with Him, resting in His bosom.
- He calls His disciples to be with Him, to get off the rat race of the world and come along side. Sometimes He uses sickness or tragedy.
- From this precious fellowship all else, all ministry, all life flows.
 - *In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side
Earthly cares forever vex me, while thy trials lay me low;
But when Satan comes to tempt me, to that secret place I go,
To the secret place I go.*
 - *When my soul is faint and thirsty, 'neath the shadow of Your wings
There is cool and pleasant shelter, and a fresh and crystal spring;
And my Savior rests beside me, as we hold communion sweet:
If I tried, I could not utter what He says when thus we meet,
What He says when thus we meet.*
 - *Would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the Lord?
Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;
And whene'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,
You will surely bear the image of the Master in your face,
Of the Master in your face. Ellen Goreh*
- This is the heart of God to have us near Him, with Him. Imagine, God wants to be with you!!
- Song of Songs, **2:10-14**, Rev. 21:3 God will be with us. Jn. 14 3, Where I am...
- Have I been with Jesus? (Acts. 4:13)

3) They are sent. Vs.14-15

- We are all called to preach. Mouth and Life.
- Was this a glorious life? Mt. 10:8-38
- Mt. 28:19 Disciples making disciples.
- Perhaps God has not given us the gift of miracles or healing but we can love, we can care.
- Sent as ambassadors and we must know the will of the One who sends us.
- Know the God of the bible. What does the bible say!