

Theme: Jesus had a distinct relationship and response to the crowds, demonic powers, and His disciples, who were called out of the crowd to be with Him and then go back to the crowd to proclaim the Gospel and confront Satan's kingdom.

I. Intro - In the World But Not Of It

- A. A very difficult balance - and the Church has struggled
- B. As more and more people turned to Christ, many Christians became totally 'of' the world!
- C. Monasticism developed in part as a way to not be 'of' the world and to live as Christ commanded - but they were no longer 'in the world'!
- D. Today we see the call of Jesus for His disciples relative to Himself, the crowds, and the demonic forces

II. Jesus and the Crowds

- A. Jesus withdraws and the crowds follow Him
Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. Mark 3:7
 - 1. Once again, Jesus goes away from the village
 - 2. This is probably due to the conflict - to be refreshed
 - 3. Once again, the crowds follow Him!
- B. The crowd is more massive than ever
Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. ⁸ When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. Mark 3:7-9

- 1. The crowd is huge!
 - a. large crowd, many people (same words in Greek)
 - b. v9 - large crowd, have a boat ready!
 - c. The Pharisees are irrevocably set against Jesus but many still want to come to Him.
- 2. The crowd is from a wide range of places
 - a. Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, across the Jordan, Tyre and Sidon - coming from all over!
 - b. Idumea is 120 miles away - a great distance
 - c. This shows us three things:
 - 1. Jesus and the Gospel are powerful to draw people!
 - 2. His fame is spreading far wider than John the Baptist's ever did.
 - 3. This is a foreshadowing of the worldwide mission of the Church!
- C. The crowd is there for healing and miracles
When they heard all he was doing, many people came ... ⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. ¹⁰ For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. Mark 3:8-10
 - 1. They came because of what He was 'doing'
 - 2. They were not trying to hear, they were crushing him by trying to touch Him.
 - 3. He had healed many so the sick were trying to touch Him
 - 4. This is certainly understandable! I would want the same thing!

5. But the real need is Jesus, not His power, and to know and love Him, not get things from Him.

D. The crowds are open and interested in Jesus, but they often have their own agenda. Jesus is kind and merciful to the crowds, but He does not let their agenda determine His actions.

III. Jesus and the Demons

A. Jesus continued to confront demonic powers

Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.”¹² But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was. Mark 3:11–12

1. The evil spirits reacted to the Presence of Jesus!
2. The conflict between Jesus and Satan which began in Mark 1:12-13 is still going strong!
3. The demons recognize Jesus even if others don't!
4. The demons recognize the Deity of Christ - you are the Son of God! (Mark 1:1)
5. Jesus refuses to let the demons give testimony of His identity
 - a. It is not time for the open proclamation of His identity
 - b. Jesus is not interested in “assistance” from the powers of darkness! His Kingdom is utterly opposed to the kingdom of darkness and nothing they can say will assist in His mission.
6. Jesus displays total authority over the demons
 - a. The demons fall prostrate before Him
 - b. strict **orders** - ἐπιτιμάω - rebuke

The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord **rebuke** you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, **rebuke** you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” Zechariah 3:2

c. Jesus, the Son of God, here rebukes the forces of Satan, displaying total authority over them. When He speaks, they must obey!

B. Jesus' preaching and ministry bring open confrontation with the forces of evil, but He displays total authority over them!

IV. Jesus and the Disciples

A. Jesus appoints twelve disciples

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.¹⁴ He appointed twelve ... Mark 3:13–14

1. Once again, Jesus takes the initiative, not the followers (not the normal pattern for rabbis)
2. Note that Jesus is calling them out of the large crowd to come to Him - and they give a definite response.
3. This is parallel to the calls in Mark 1:16-20
4. Jesus appoints the famous Twelve as His followers

B. The Twelve - and all disciples of Jesus

Jesus went up on a **mountainside** and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.¹⁴ He appointed **twelve** — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach Mark 3:13–14

1. Jesus goes on a mountain, calls twelve - reminiscent of Mt. Sinai and God creating and appointing Israel

2. Jesus is here creating a new “twelve tribes” to be the fulfillment of God’s call to Israel
3. The Twelve clearly occupy a unique place in the history of the Church (Mark uses this referent 11 times!)
4. But they are the foundation of the new covenant people of God, the Church, and are a paradigm for all disciples who will come after them.

C. The call of being Jesus’ disciple

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — **that they might be with him** and **that he might send them out to preach** ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. Mark 3:13–15

1. Mark here identifies the two main parts of being a disciple of Jesus: **being with Him**, and **being sent out by Him**.
2. That they might be with Him
 - a. This is the heart of discipleship - being with Jesus!
 - b. As we have seen in Mark 1, disciples are apprentices and followers. They do not just learn from Jesus’ words, but from being with Him and learning His rhythm and pattern of life.
 - c. As Jesus was sent to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom and drive out demons, so are His disciples.
 - d. We can not go forth to do ministry until we have been with Jesus!
 - e. Nor does this call ever end! The heart of discipleship is being with Jesus, walking with Jesus, and loving Jesus.

- f. Discipleship requires us to come out of the crowd to be with Jesus - it does not happen in the midst of the crowd.
- g. The crowds desperately need modern-day disciples to ‘be with Jesus’ for we can not truly serve our community unless we are regularly spending time with Jesus.

3. That He might send them out

- a. We are called out of the crowd to be with Jesus - and then He sends us back to them on mission!
- b. Some would prefer to simply ‘be with Jesus’ - but He calls us to go out on mission!
- c. There are two key parts of the mission here: proclaiming the Gospel and spiritual warfare
- d. Preach - proclaiming the Gospel
 1. The primary need and call is for us to clearly, winsomely, and persuasively share the Good News with others.
 2. No amount of loving, serving, praying, and caring for others can replace the clear proclamation of the Gospel.
 3. Practical ministry is a great way to open the door (like Jesus did with healing!), but we must always look to share the Good news, for the Gospel is the power of God for salvation!
- e. Have authority to drive out demons - spiritual warfare
 1. Disciples who are full of the Spirit and who share the Gospel will inevitably come into spiritual conflict.
 2. As Jesus makes us into disciples, we are able to confront the worked strongholds of Satan we encounter.
 3. This certainly includes the literal casting out of demons when necessary, but more often it will be spiritual warfare in prayer and ministry.

- D. The call of being Jesus' disciple always entails being with Jesus to learn from Him and have Him form my heart and soul, and then being sent by Jesus into the world to share the Good News and to labor to drive back the kingdom of darkness.

V. Applying the Word

A. Do I see I must be 'with Jesus'?

1. This certainly includes conversion - coming out of the crowd to be a follower of Jesus!
2. But it is a call for us to walk with Jesus each day!
3. This is not something for a select few - it is the call for all Christians.
4. We become like those we are with (Proverbs 13:20)
5. Am I 'with Jesus' regularly in the Word, prayer, and worship?
6. It is a broken, divisive, confusing mess of a world out there - we need the calming, reorienting, joyful experience of being with Jesus each day!
7. I encourage and urge you to take time - when waking up, while driving, before bed - to be with Jesus!

B. Do I see that I am being 'sent' by Jesus?

1. NOTE: We will talk more about spiritual warfare next week
2. As disciples of Jesus, we are not a 'holy huddle'!
3. Jesus is forming us to send us into the world!
4. We don't just LOVE, CONNECT, and SERVE - we are all part of REACH!

5. This is not about everyone going to foreign lands, or standing on the street corner talking to strangers - there are many ways Jesus is sending us!
6. Pray for and simply invite family, friends, coworkers, neighbors - if they say no just keep praying!
7. We even have things like the cooking connect group and the craft connect group - invite to those and see how God will work!
8. We are going to have increasing opportunities for reaching out to our community - see where you might be able to serve!
9. If you feel like you might fail - just look at the Twelve in Mark! they stumble all the time - and Jesus still uses them! Be encouraged!
10. The key thing here is to realize that as a disciple of Jesus you are blessed - so look for ways to be a blessing!

C. The Lord's Table

1. At this Table we are "with Jesus"!
2. Today, let's focus on simply being with Jesus and receiving from Him!
3. He is not here to condemn His disciples, but to fellowship with them!
4. Come and receive from the Lord!

The Crowds, the Demons, and the Disciples

Mark 3:7-19

February 19, 2023

Communion

2 Peter 3:18

Teaching keywords: Discipleship; evangelism and missions; Satan and demons; spiritual warfare; Deity of Christ

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, so that you are filled with every blessing - and go forth and be a blessing! 2 Peter 3:18

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. ⁸ When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. ¹⁰ For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. ¹¹ Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was.

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve — designating them apostles — that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Mark 3:7–19