

# Mark 3

Lesson for Sunday, June 18, 2023

CHAPTER SUMMARY: Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, provoking the Pharisee's rage. Crowds continue to follow Him, and He heals the sick and demon-possessed among them. He chooses twelve disciples and talks about the source of His power and about His true family.

1. The Courage of Jesus (vs. 1-6)
  - a. The miracle (vs. 1-5)
  - b. The malice (vs. 6)
2. The Compassion of Jesus (vs. 7-12)
  - a. What He does (vs. 7-11)
    - i. He restores those who are sick (vs. 7-10)
    - ii. He releases those who are possessed (vs. 11)
  - b. What He says (vs. 12)
3. The Call of Jesus (vs. 13-19)
  - a. The number (vs. 13-14)
  - b. The nature (vs. 15)
  - c. The names (vs. 16-19)
4. The Critics of Jesus (vs. 20-30)
  - a. Criticism from His family (vs. 20-21)
  - b. Criticism from His foes (vs. 22-30)
5. The Clarification of Jesus (vs. 31-35)
  - a. The desire of His earthly kin (vs. 31-32)
  - b. The description of His eternal kin (vs. 33-35)

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ In verses 13-19, Jesus calls His 12 disciples. These men would spend a lot of time with Jesus in the upcoming months, and eventually, Jesus would turn the entire enterprise over to them to take to the world. Needless to say, this was an important decision!
- ⇒ Webster's defines "disciple" as a follower of a teacher, school or philosophy. A true disciple is not just a student or learner, but a follower: one who applies what he has learned.
- ⇒ Jesus calls each of us to be His disciple. What does that mean? We get an idea in these verses.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. Men called by Jesus (vs. 13).
  - a. Jesus called, or chose, twelve choice men. It's important to recognize that there were many more who were following Jesus, but these men were chosen to walk even more closely with the Lord.
  - b. If you were choosing a group of people for an important task, what qualities would you be looking for? *Discuss...* (You may even want to discuss the qualities that the world typically looks for.)
  - c. Jesus did not look at the stature of the people, not at their appearance and looks, not even at their ability and education (in fact most of the men were uneducated). Jesus looked at the hearts of the people (see 1 Samuel 16:7). How does this differ from the list you just discussed?
  - d. Jesus "called...whom He would." They did not choose Him, but He chose them (June 15:16). He called those whose hearts were right and responsive.
  - e. The disciples "came unto Him." The Greek means "they went away unto Him." It involves the idea that they left, forsook, and went away from their former work to undertake the new work assigned by Jesus. (Consider: Mark 10:28; Luke 5:11, 27-28).
  - f. What does this have to do with us? The call to be a disciple has not changed.

- i. Luke 9:23-24 – *What are the implications?*
  - ii. Luke 14:33 – *What are the implications?*
  - iii. Luke 18:29-30 – *What are the implications?*
- 2. Men charged by Jesus (vs.14-15).
  - a. In this text we see four specific purposes for which the disciples were called.
  - b. First, the disciples were appointed *to be with Jesus*.
    - i. This was the first lesson Jesus wanted to teach men: that God wants man’s personal fellowship and devotion before all else.
    - ii. The disciples were to live in Jesus’s presence, ever learning from Him and drawing their spiritual nourishment and strength from Him.
    - iii. It is no different for the disciple today: 1 Corinthians 1:9.
    - iv. This was the source of Paul’s desires: Philippians 3:8, 10.
  - c. Second, the disciples were appointed to be *sent forth*.
    - i. They were to be His ambassadors, His representatives who moved out into the world. They were appointed for that very purpose, to represent Him among the people of the world.
    - ii. It is no different for the disciple today: 2 Corinthians 5:20.
  - d. Third, the disciples were appointed *to preach*.
    - i. They were to be the heralds, the messengers of Jesus Christ.
    - ii. Jesus had a message for the world, and they were to proclaim His message to the world.
    - iii. It is no different for the disciple today: Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 9:16.
  - e. Fourth, the disciples were appointed to *receive power*.
    - i. In these men, they were given the power to minister and to heal sicknesses and to cast out devils. Those were gifts given to those original apostles.
    - ii. But we still have the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, available for us today to empower us as we follow and obey the Lord.
    - iii. Matthew 28:20 (“I will be with you”); Acts 1:8 (“Ye shall receive power – and shall be My witnesses”); see also Ephesians 3:20 & 2 Timothy 1:6-8.
- 3. Men changed by Jesus (vs.16-19).
  - a. These men were changed by Jesus, and these men changed the world through the power of Jesus (as seen in the book of Acts).
  - b. We don’t have the time in a lesson like this to look in depth into the lives of these men, but their impact on the world for the sake of the Gospel was unparalleled. All of them suffered the death of martyrs.
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – When Jesus saves a person, He changes a person.
    - i. Share a brief testimony of the difference that Jesus has made in your life.
    - ii. If time, allow sentence testimonies from class members.
  - d. The change comes from a willingness to obey what Jesus has charged us to do. And as we obey, we are conformed into the image of Jesus.
  - e. At the heart of the meaning of a disciple, is someone who follows or imitates their teacher. We are called to imitate Jesus, to think like Him, to act like Him and to be identified with Him in every aspect of our lives.

#### CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ It is critical to keep in mind that each man had to be *willing* to be changed. One was not willing, Judas Iscariot. He is especially noted in verse 19.
- ⇒ This brings us to a concluding thought: If you are saved, you have been called and you have been charged by the Lord Jesus Christ. He has changed you by the forgiveness of your sins and placing His Holy Spirit within you.
- ⇒ How will you be remembered?