



THE GOSPEL OF

**MARK**

## Sermon Series Notes



### “Jesus’ Call & Commission” (Mark 3:7-19)

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v.11 They fell down means that those possessed by these spirits fell down.

v.12 Why would he do this? Many commentators suggest it was a timing issue, and we do see Scriptures that clearly indicate that things needed to happen in such a way that the cross came “in the fullness of time.” John 8:20...no one seized him, because his time had not yet come. Mark 14:41-42...the hour has come...the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners...Here comes my betrayer.

But I personally believe it is more than an issue of timing. I believe it is also an issue of appropriateness, as well as integrity. These evil spirits would not be declaring Jesus as the Son of God with honor, but with derision, sarcasm. And that is certainly something not in line with God’s will for His one and only Son. This is no doubt the way it was with the fortune teller of Acts 16:16-18. In that situation this woman day after day followed Paul and his ministry companions shouting, “These are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” Paul became so troubled that he finally turned and commanded the evil spirit to come out of her, which it did.

Her in our text, many are coming to Jesus just to get from Him what they need. And many received what they came for – healing, a miracle, etc. But Jesus is looking for those who want more than to get something from Him. He’s looking for “a few good men,” men who will become not only disciples, but disciples who make disciples of others, disciples who will be leaders trained to train others. We will focus our attention specifically on the twelve he designates as apostles, but let me say right away that, other than their particular calling as apostles, they are just like every other disciple called by Jesus. Let me say that again. Other than their particular calling as apostles, they are just like every other disciple. So any potential disciple can learn from these twelve.

Others besides these twelve became apostles (Rom.16:7; I Cor.12:28-29), but these twelve had a unique calling even among other apostles. They became known as “The Twelve.” Matthias would later replace Judas (Acts 1), but I believe Paul was God’s replacement for Judas. The Twelve are granted great privilege, and with it great responsibility. See Eph.2:20; Rev.21:14; Luke 22:29-30.

#### THEIR CALLING

There is nothing impressive about any of them. They are not rich, influential in society, of royal blood, etc. See I Cor.1:26-29.

They along with others, are called out from among the crowd. They are sovereignly “chosen.” Matt.22:14: Many are called, but few are chosen.

He chooses us according to His foreknowledge (I Peter 1:2).

God called Felix, but he did not “choose” Felix, because Felix put off the call til “a more convenient time,” which never came (Acts 24:25). He called Pilate, but Pilate gave in to the pressure of the crowd. He tried to make himself innocent by washing his hands in front of everyone and stating that he found no fault in Jesus. But in not making a decision for Jesus, he was making a decision against Jesus. Jesus said “he who is not with me is against me.”

#### THEIR CHARACTER

They are very different from one another; See file, illustration on the differences of these men.

The mysterious choice of Judas. Of course the choosing of Judas fits with what we talked about in the introduction to this message, God’s timing and the fulfillment of Scripture concerning the cross. But the choice of Judas also shows God’s amazing grace. Judas had every opportunity to repent and be saved. But Judas chose to be a pawn in the hands of Satan. He was the con of all cons, which shows us in a very real and living way what a master of disguise our great enemy is. He disguises himself as an angel of light (II Cor.11:14).

Matthew, former tax collector; Simon the Zealot, a political activist (more info); James & John were dubbed by Jesus “Sons of Thunder.” This is not a positive designation, just a label that reflects their anger management issues. See Luke 9:51-56.

And Simon, who Jesus dubbed Peter. Peter means “rock.” Some rock huh? Unless of course Jesus was referring to how hard Peter’s head was?

They are a very unlikely team! And a very imperfect team.

Jesus called these men when they had issues, issues that needed to be dealt with, issues that unless dealt with would hinder them in both life and ministry. For Judas, issues that would ultimately land him in hell. But they were called despite these issues. Jesus saw potential in these very unlikely candidates for such a high calling and commission.

What about you? Has God called you? Is He calling you? Some think they have to wait until the issues in their lives are dealt with, but that is not true.

From a human perspective, this is the most unlikely twelve people to pick that anyone could imagine. And this is Jesus’ starting lineup! This is the team the Super Bowl of Christianity is riding on.

#### THEIR COMMISSION

He *appointed* twelve, *designating* them apostles. God has the right to appoint us to whatever He has in mind for us. These twelve did not enter a contest, fill out an apostolic application, or even aspire to this designation by Jesus. They were not nominated for these positions, they were sovereignly chosen.

See Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth, and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

I Cor.12:18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

Our challenge is not only accepting God’s will for us in regard to our part & position in the body of Christ, but also exactly what he has planned for us in life compared to others in the body. John 21:22 “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”

What is an apostle? “A delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders.”

There are three things mentioned here that were essential to the apostles’ success in life and ministry. And these three things are essential for every successful disciple of Christ.

The first is “that they might be with him.”

Some of us might think that’s what we really need, to actually be with Jesus. If Jesus were here physically, and we could hang with Him, that would be the difference in us becoming really committed disciples.

While we do not have the privilege of being with Jesus physically, we nevertheless have the privilege of being with Him, and in a very real sense.

See Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:18 (context)

Did you know that God wants fellowship with us more than we want fellowship with Him?

Rev.3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

My two favorite things in life are intimacy with my wife and fellowship with my God. And my intimacy with the Lord is growing the older I get. I can say the same about my relationship with my wife. And that's the way it should be.

Promo "Spending Time With God"

Components for a successful time with God

- The Word of God
  - Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.
  - II Tim.3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
  - Rom.12:2; I Peter 1:12-15
  
- Prayer
  - Prayer is a discipline
  - I Peter 4:7...be self-controlled and alert so that you can pray.
  - Prayer is not just a laundry list; Remember the 4/4 pattern, based on the Lord's Prayer: Reverence, response, requests, readiness.

When we are with Him on a regular basis, He can teach us, rebuke us, correct us, & trains us in righteousness. He can give us daily direction, provide us with daily bread, keep us on the narrow path. James and John rebuked when they wanted to call down fire from heave; Peter rebuked when he had in mind the things of men and not the things of God in looking to deter Jesus from the Father's will (the cross). All the apostles were rebuked on more than one occasion. And you find Jesus repeatedly teaching them, privately, personally.

While we have the tremendous privilege of being with Him alone, personally, our sanctification will never be complete unless we are also with Him in community.

Prov.27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Being with Him is the key to our success.

- John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; *apart from me you can do nothing.*
- Old Paths, New Power, p.231, top right

I receive daily motivation to live for Him by being regularly with Him. See My Utmost for His Highest, p.54.

Things that keep us from being with Him

- Sin
  - Adam and Eve hiding from the Lord (Gen.; John 3:20-21)
- Busyness (even ministry)
  - Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
  - Daniel Henderson – “The devil does not have to destroy us but simply distract us.”
- Lukewarmness (Rev. 3, Laodicea)
- A loner mentality
  - Sanctification process not complete unless we are also with Him in community.

Someone has referred to fellowship with the Lord as “The privilege of all, and the unceasing experience of but a few.”

The second essential in the text is “that he might send them out to preach.”

Preach = “To proclaim as a herald.”

The success of their being sent out was especially tied to their being with Jesus. See Acts 4:13.

The first official sending out is recorded in Luke 9:1-6. The next is seen in Luke 10:1; I personally believe The Twelve had a hand in helping to prepare this second band of missionaries. Why do I believe this? See Eph.4:11-12. Even if we argue over whether or not the Twelve actually helped in preparing this second missionary team, we cannot argue with the truth of Eph.4. It is interesting to me what happened with The Twelve when the first persecution hit the church in the book of Acts. See Acts 8:1b. See also Acts 1:1-8. Now look at Mark 16:15. It is clear when we compare these passages that God’s intention was for the apostles to make disciples who would make disciples who would make disciples who would in turn make more disciples. See Acts 8:4ff. In Acts 8 it is not an official sending out in teams, but a scattering in the will of God.

They tell me that Matthew 28:19 literally means “as you are going.” This is certainly seen in the context of the NT. There are examples of official teams being sent out to do mission work in the will of God. But there is also both the example and encouragement of every believer to do mission work wherever they are, and through whatever they are doing.

Col.3:17, 23-24 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him...Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Also see Titus 2:10; Philippians 2:14-15

Our message is more than our words, it is our lifestyle.

If anyone has said yes to the call of Jesus, they have a commission. There is a specific commission (apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher, evangelist; Rom 12, etc.). but all of us have a general commission (Matt.28:19-20; Mark 16:15).

There is a specific witness of sharing the gospel, but there is also a general witness of our life and lifestyle before the world.

The third essential is “to have authority to drive out demons.”

The apostles were sent out, and the demons did submit to them. But afterward, when they reported to Jesus with excitement how the demons had submitted to them, Jesus told them not to rejoice that the demons submit to them, but rather to rejoice because their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20). It is clear that the priority is to proclaim the gospel, not to have authority over evil spirits. I did not say we do not have authority over evil spirits, but our authority over evil spirits is directly tied to the message of the gospel, and our priority must be that message. This is why Jesus told the disciples not to rejoice that the demons submit to them, but rather to rejoice that their names are written in heaven.

The priority and power of the gospel message was seen in Jesus telling the paralytic his sins were forgiven, before he healed him (Mark 2). Let us never forget that very clear lesson.

Eph.2:1-2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, *the spirit* who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...

#### CONCLUSION

Luke 10:1-2; The answer to that prayer involves people hearing the call of God upon their lives, responding to that call, spending time with Him that He might sanctify us, prepare us, and send us out with power.

Would you respond to the call of God today?