



## “Jesus’ Call & Commission, Part 2” (Mark 3:7-19)

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Last weekend we looked at some things from Mark 3 that are essential to the success of the church, as well the Christian life. I felt strongly led to spend a little more time on the text from last weekend, so let me read again Mark 3:7-19.

We focused our attention on the twelve men Jesus designated as apostles, noting that, other than their calling as apostles, they are just like you and me. Jesus designated them as apostles in order to not only send them out to preach, but to disciple others who would go out as well. These men were responsible for laying the foundation of the church of Jesus Christ. (Eph.4:11-12a). The Super Bowl of Christianity was riding on them.

We looked at three things concerning these men: Their calling, their character, and their commission. Let me summarize their calling by saying that they were just ordinary men (I Cor.1:26-29). And their character? Lacking would be a good word to describe them. They had issues, and if these issues were not dealt with, they would not be successful. Finally, their commission. It was threefold:

- “that they might be with him.”
- “that he might send them out to preach”
- “and to have authority to drive out demons”
  - Authority tied to the gospel message (Rom.1:16)
  - Priority is the message, not demon hunting

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.

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

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.

Being with Him is the key to our success, both in the Christian life, and in our witness to the world.

- Acts 4:13
- 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.*

Practical aspects of “being with him.”

### **Christian Community**

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

Sanctification cannot be complete apart from being in community with other believers. Being here together is a fairly impersonal aspect of being with Him, and yet it is still an important one.

Hebrews 10:25 let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Eph.5:19

We are living in a day when even elements of the Christian culture is lessening the importance, and sometimes even the necessity, of a meeting like we are in right now. That kind of thinking goes against the Word of God. Not only is it unbiblical, but is motivated by an independent mindset, which is also unbiblical (Heb.13:17, etc.).

But the example of the NT takes the corporate meeting of the church and brings it down to a more personal level. See Acts 2:46-47; 2:42.

How are we going to learn to forgive one another if we are never in the kind of community where we have need to forgive one another? How are we going to serve one another if we are never in the kind of community where we can practically and personally do so. How are we going work through the same issues to unify us that the twelve apostles had to work through unless we are in the kind of community to be able to do so.

Story of my first Life Group (Kinship), two people showed up but did not stay. But because I knew it was biblical I did not give up. And today, though we have far too few Life Groups, we will still make it a priority, because it is biblical, and it is necessary for complete sanctification and success as Christians, and as a church.

Relationships built through more intimate church gatherings are essential for Christian growth, maturity, and stability. We need one another.

Bad company corrupts good character (1 Cor.15:33).

I When I gave my life to Christ at age 19, I plunged myself into the life of the church...

### **The Word of God**

- John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.
- John 17:18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.
- John 17:20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me though their message.

What I want to really drive home is how essential the Word of God is to our success, in the Christian life, and in our witness to the world.

God has never spoken to me in an audible voice. And most Christians I have known over the years have never heard God in an audible voice. Certainly God can (and does at times) speak in an audible voice. But for whatever reason, He has chosen to have human agents, inspired by the Holy Spirit, pen this book (the Bible), and this book is God's Word to us. So if we want to hear His voice, if we are to be sanctified for His glory and purpose, this book is essential.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be able to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

See Deut.17:18-19

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

Psalm 119: 105

A new Christian will get much (if not all) of the Word in the context of meetings like this, or in smaller Bible studies. But all Christians must develop and maintain a personal time with the Lord, and the Word of God must be the foundation of that time. Our prayer times, times of meditation, etc. must all be founded upon the Word of God.

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. A husband and wife growing in their relationship with the Lord will naturally grow in their relationship with another.

Promo "Spending Time With God"

Things that keep us from being with Him.

- No desire (which probably means no relationship)
- The negative aspects of community life (I Cor.1:10-12; Philippians 4:2-3, etc.).
  - When we are out of fellowship with one another, we are out of fellowship with the Lord (I John 1:3-4).
- Sin
  - Adam and Eve hiding from the Lord (Gen.; John 3:20-21)
  - I John 1:6-7
- 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.3:20 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.
  - A half-hearted approach to anything in life will not get you very far.
- A lack of discipline (will)

- My Utmost for His Highest, p.190
- Scriptures that refer to discipline as an essential of the Christian life; I Peter 4:7; II Peter 1:5-8 (noting link between self-control and perseverance; diet has to be a lifestyle, etc.);
- Examples of how many times someone can read through the Word in a ten year period if they simply disciplined themselves to do so. Many Bible plans will take you through the entire Word of God annually, but you can also be more aggressive if you like. At one time I was reading through the Bible 4 times per year. It was revolutionary for me.

## CONCLUSION

- “A Parable for Pastors”
- Church meetings where the Word of God is taught, shared, discussed
- Christian community
- Personal time with the Lord