

Mark 3:7-19 – Twelve Ordinary Men

Leader's Guide

January 13, 2019

- 1. Read Mark 3:7-19 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What was the most interesting part of the study? What did you learn about Jesus and the apostles that you did not know?**

A Great Crowd Follows Jesus

⁷ Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea ⁸ and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. ¹¹ And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

The Twelve Apostles

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- 2. Jesus' training strategy was to have his disciples with him. How does that change the way you think about helping other Christians mature? (Mark 3:14, Acts 12:25, Acts 16:1-5)**

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach. Mark 3:14 (ESV)

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark. Acts 12:25 (ESV)

- John Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas as part of their plan for his spiritual maturity. John Mark also spent extensive time with the apostle Peter in Rome traveling with him (See the first message in this series for more details.) Part of the fruit of that work is the Gospel of Mark we are studying. It was written by John Mark.

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. Acts 16:1-5 (ESV)

- Timothy's training by the apostle Paul took place by accompanying Paul on his mission trips.

3. Why does God often call ordinary people to be part of his church? Why does God raise up ordinary people as leaders in his church? How does that encourage you? Read James 2:5; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Amos 1:1 and study some background on Amos; Judges 6:14-16)

- God loves to call ordinary people to be part of his church and use ordinary people as leaders in his church. When God uses ordinary people, he gets more glory.

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? James 2:5 (ESV)

- God often chooses the poor to be rich in faith.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (ESV)

- God often calls those who have nothing and are nothing. Unlike us, he doesn't show special favor to the Kardashians of this world.

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. Amos 1:1 (ESV)

Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. Amos 7:14 (ESV)

- Amos was called by God to preach and lead God's people to repentance. There was nothing special about Amos. He was simply a shepherd and gardener that worked with fig trees.

And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." Judges 6:14-16 (ESV)

- God chose to use Gideon. He was a man that was from the weakest clan. He was the weakest in his house. Gideon had a hard time believing God chose to use him and that God would enable him to succeed in his calling. He needed to get his eyes off his inadequacies and put them on God and his strength.

4. Jesus called the apostle John and his brother James, "Sons of Thunder", which referred to their temper. At the end of his life, John was known as the apostle of love because he always encouraged people to love one another (See 1 John, especially 1 John 3:11,18). How does knowing the radical change Christ made in John's character over time encourage you?

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 3:11 (ESV)

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18 (ESV)

- John, who started out with a reputation for being a hot head, was eventually known as the apostle of love. The constant theme of his letters, such as 1 John, is to love one another. John's radical change in character is a reminder that no matter how rough our edges, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will change us to be more like him.

5. Read the calling of the twelve apostles in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16). Study verses before and after the apostles calling to better understand the context. What insights do the other gospels give to better understand the way things transpired? (Note: Matthew immediately tells about the apostles sending, which actually comes later in Luke 9 and Mark 6 after they spend time with Jesus.)

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Matthew 10:1-4 (ESV)

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Mark 3:13-19 (ESV)

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. Luke 6:12-16 (ESV)

- Jesus prayed all night before choosing the apostles. This reminds us to pray before making important decisions.
- Jesus came down with his apostles and immediately launched into preaching to the huge crowd that came to see him.
- Luke tells us he cast out every demon and healed every disease in the crowd of thousands.
- Luke gives us a window into what Jesus said in his teaching. He valued teaching, not just healing and casting out demons.
- Matthew emphasizes the sending out of the apostles and the persecutions they would face.