

mrk09 – **Crowds Vs Disciples – Mark 3:7-19**

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**Today** – because of **Mark's writing** style

we **again** have a **great opportunity** to see a **STARK CONTRAST**  
between **two ends** of the "**following Jesus**" spectrum

In **two short scenes** in Mark  
we **get to decide** which **people** we **want to be** like

the **CROWD** in the **1<sup>st</sup> scene**  
or the **DISCIPLES** in the **2<sup>nd</sup> scene**

It's a **clear comparison** – **AND** a Clear **Challenge**

Are we - "**In the Crowd**"  
**OR** are we – "**Becoming a Disciple**"

**Let's Pray**

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**Mark 3:7–8 (NLT)**

***7 Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him*** (meaning 'followed after' him). ***They came from all over Galilee, Judea,***

***8 Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon.*** (WHY were all these people "coming after Jesus") – (because) ***The news about his miracles had spread far and wide, and vast numbers of people came to see him.***

**Is this GOOD? –**

**Do you think Jesus thought this was GOOD?**

**Don't we think - "Drawing a Big Crowd" to church – is GOOD?**

But **really** – if you **look closely**

it's **easy** to **see** that Jesus **DID NOT think**  
**drawing** a **Big Crowd** (in & of itself) **was GOOD**

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**Look** at our **next section** about the **crowd**

**Mark 3:9-12 (NLT)**

***9 Jesus instructed his disciples to have a boat ready so the crowd would not crush him.***

***10 He had healed many people that day, so all the sick people eagerly pushed forward to touch him.***

***11 And whenever those possessed by evil spirits caught sight of him, the spirits would throw them to the ground in front of him shrieking, "You are the Son of God!"***

***12 But Jesus sternly commanded the spirits not to reveal who he was.*** (this is 'crowd control' by Jesus)

Guys - Jesus **LOVED each person** in these **crowds**

And – **out** of **compassion** he **healed them**  
& he **cast demons** out of **them**

**BUT** – if you **really LOOK**

at how the crowds are portrayed in the gospels  
it's obvious that they were "Coming to Jesus"  
for all the WRONG reasons

John 2:23 says that many people BEGAN to believe in him  
Because of his Miracles

But Jesus DID NOT commit himself to them  
because he knew what was in each person's heart

The implication is - Jesus knew it wasn't REAL -  
He knew they weren't coming for the RIGHT reasons

They were there – to GET SOMETHING from Jesus

They were NOT THERE to Commit to Follow Jesus as The Messiah

& isn't it really the same today?

Aren't there still plenty of churches – who portray Jesus  
as GIVING the people something they WANT?

& aren't they CREATING the same TYPE of crowds  
that Jesus worked so hard – TO AVOID

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If you really want to see how Jesus handled the crowds

Read the Bread of Life sermon – starting at John 6:22

We have **TWO Messages** on this **text** on the **word-by-mail**  
Phone app – just **search “John 6:22”**

In **John 6** – It’s **very clear**

that Jesus **CHALLENGED** the **MOTIVES** of **those** who **were**  
**“coming after him”** – in order to **GET something** from him

& **when** he **DID challenge them** – they **turned away**  
& **STOPPED** following after **him**

& **at** the **end** of that **sermon** – **in John 6:66** – it **says** this

### **John 6:66–69 (NLT)**

***66 At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.***

***67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”***

***68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.***

***69 We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”***

Guys – **THIS** – is the **REAL REASON**  
to **Commit** to **Follow Jesus** your **entire life**

***“Lord, [where else would we go]? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”***

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You & I have to CHOOSE – TO EITHER . . .

‘Look to Jesus’ – *for something he can GIVE US*

Which is why the crowds chased after him

OR – Commit to FOLLOW JESUS – *because he alone has the words of Eternal Life, & because we believe and know that he is the Holy One of God*

Which is why the Original 12 DISCIPLES followed him

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So - Mark sets up the CONTRAST here

By first PAINTING A PICTURE of the CROWDS

& NOW - INTRODUCING US to the DISCIPLES

Mark 3:13-15 (NLT)

*13 Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him.*

*14 Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him (be with him), and he would send them out to preach,*

*15 giving them authority to cast out demons.*

THIS is an EXTREME CONTRAST to the Crowds

that were crushing in on Jesus

In order to GET something from him

In CONTRAST - Jesus *CALLED The Disciples*  
to BE WITH HIM - & they *CAME TO HIM*

& he would USE them – to Literally CHANGE THE WORLD

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NOT the Crowds – *THE 12*

With 12 - Who Responded to his CALL to *BE WITH HIM*  
& Committed to *FOLLOW Him* as their LORD

With 12 – God spread the *Good News of Salvation*  
& the plan of the Kingdom of God – *around the WORLD*

Those must have been some kind of *SUPERSTAR 12*, right?

Like the *AVENGER Superheroes* of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century

They must've been - The **MOST Gifted**

The BEST & the Brightest  
The TOP of the Class – *superstars*

NO – NOT AT ALL  
In fact – *Quite the OPPOSITE*

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So - Let's MEET the Disciples -  
& Then we'll do super-MINI Bios on each of them, ok?

Mark 3:16-19 (NLT) → →

## **Mark 3:16-19 (NLT)**

**16 These are the twelve he chose: Simon (whom he named Peter),  
17 James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them “Sons of Thunder”),  
18 Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot),  
19 Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).**

Jesus **Turned away** the **CROWDS**  
**Because** their **motives** were **wrong**

& he **put all his eggs** in the **basket** of **these 12 guys**

**Pinning** the **Hope of Salvation** for **the World**  
on **these 12 guys . . .**

So - **Let’s see** what they **had to offer**

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**16 . . . Simon (whom he named Peter),**

The **leader** & **self-appointed spokesman** for the **12**

**Bold**, **Aggressive**, **Out-Spoken**, **Impulsive**

**Peter** was the **Ready-FIRE-Aim** guy  
& **he had** a Perfectly - **Foot-Shaped Mouth**

& **Jesus** took him – **JUST as he WAS**  
But Jesus **Didn’t LEAVE him** – **JUST as he WAS**

Which means – if Jesus could TRANSFORM Peter  
& use him so mightily

then there is hope for some of US, right?

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**17 James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them “Sons of Thunder”),**

Their nickname from Jesus - describes their character

They were zealous, thunderous, & intense brothers

James was the older brother

But he was NOT the writer of the book of James

In fact – the thing this James is best known for

is being the First of the 12 to be Martyred  
because he was a stir it up – in your face kinda guy

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& his brother John – that we call the Apostle of LOVE  
was NOT that originally

he BECAME the Apostle of LOVE

AS he was transformed by his own love for Jesus

These brothers were rough & tumble, hard fishermen  
with overbearing personalities



Which again means – if Jesus could Transform them  
& use them to change the world

then there is hope for some of us – who might be LIKE THEM

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Next – *v.18 Andrew,*

The least known of what we call the 4 “Leader-Disciples”

Andrew was Peter’s brother – & He brought Peter to Christ

He was eager to follow Christ  
& Very Eager to bring others TO Christ

But Andrew always remained in the background  
Mostly in the shadow of his brother PETER

But there is no evidence of resentment or bitterness in him

Andrew was HAPPY to be in the BACKGROUND

SERVING others who were MORE in the SPOTLIGHT  
Like Peter, James & John

& if Jesus could use Andrew  
Who was most comfortable serving in the shadows

that means Jesus can use US  
who might be more like Andrew – than the hot-headed leaders

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**18 . . . Philip,**

**Philip was a Hellenistic Jew**

which **means** he **came** from a **family** that **had adopted**  
the **Greek language**, **Greek Culture**, & **Greek Customs**

It seems **Andrew** was a **facts & figures**, **by-the-book**,  
**practical** (& **pessimistic**) **kind** of **guy**

**He** was the **guy** who was **always first** to **point out**  
**WHY** something was **NOT going to work**

**So** - & if **Jesus** could use **PHILIP**  
the **short-sighted**, **pessimistic realist** – to **change the world**

**that means** there is **hope** for **some of us**  
who **might be like him**

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**18 . . . Bartholomew** (more often - Nathanael),

He is **always named** together with **PHILIP**  
& **there** are **no real details** about **him** at all

we **do know** - he was a **serious student** of the **O.T.**

& he **knew immediately**  
that **Jesus** was **fulfilling** the **OT prophecies** – **AS the Messiah**

**we know he came** from **CANA** - & **we know**  
He **had** a **prejudice problem** with **people** from **Nazareth**

But Jesus took him, transformed him, & used him . . .  
again – mostly in the shadows

& so – if you're a Brainiac – with some Prejudices – Have Hope -  
If Jesus could use Nathanael – he can use YOU

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**18 . . . Matthew,**

We looked at Matthew 2 messages ago

he was the Despised Tax-Collector -  
the lowest of the low of Jewish society - Hated by all

Ostracized by his family  
& Banned from the Synagogue

His only friends were other low-life, criminal sorts

& not only did Jesus call him - & use him

but he went to a huge dinner  
with all of Matthew's low-life, criminal friends

Which may give YOU  
or someone you KNOW - - HOPE

that Jesus would come to dinner with YOU - & use YOU

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## **18 . . . Thomas,**

If **PHILIP** (who we already met) was a pessimist –

Then **THOMAS** was **EEYORE** from Winnie the Pooh

He was a **doubter**, **questioner**, & **an anxious worry wart**

He **anticipated** the **worst**

& often **saw it coming** – **whether** it **really was** or **not**

& **so** – if **you** can **secretly RELATE** to **Thomas** (or **EEYORE**)

**Then** – there is **HOPE** for **you**

**because** if **Jesus** could **USE Thomas** to **change** the **world**

Then **he** can **surely use YOU**

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## **18 . . . James (son of Alphaeus),**

He was also **called** - **James the LESS**

& The **only thing** scripture **tells** us

**about** this **James** – **IS HIS NAME**

& his **name MAY actually** refer to his **level of influence**

He had **NO recognition** - displayed **NO leadership**,

had **NO insights**, & **NO comments**,

**during** the **entire time** he was with **Jesus**

**But** – he was **Called by Jesus**  
& he was **Used by Jesus**

**JUST LIKE** the **4 well-know disciples** that **lead** the **list**

It **makes** me **think** about **Celebrity Pastors**

**Vs** – the other **99.6 %** of all **Pastors** (non-mega church)

The **Celebrities** **lead** the **list** & **live** in the **spot-light**

**but** it **takes every single one** of us **no-name guys**  
in **order** to lead **God's Church**

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***18 . . . Thaddaeus,***

**Thaddaeus** has **THREE names** in scripture  
& **no one knows** who this **guy** really **was**

He's called **Judas-Not Iscariot**

He's called **Lebbaeus**

He's called **Thaddaeus**

The **last 2 names** are **probably nick-names**  
& **they both** imply **gentle, tender-hearted, compassion**

He's **mentioned ONLY ONCE** in the **gospels**  
**where** he **shares his concern** for the **world**

So, **while** the **Leader-Apostles**  
were **arguing** over who **gets** to **sit next to Jesus**

The no-name Apostles – were “Caring About The World”  
in the shadows of the big personality guys

& listen, please – God CALLED them ALL  
& God USED them ALL

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*18 . . . Simon (the zealot),*

A 1-time member of a radical political party  
known as “The Zealots”

Which was a well-known, greatly feared – political action group

They hated the Romans - & most of their political action  
was thru violent attempts to overthrow Rome

The Zealots were looking for a Political Messiah  
to help them overthrow Rome

& they were more than willing to DIE – or KILL  
to help make that happen

& 1 more thing – a Zealot – would have killed a Tax Collector  
in his sleep - at the 1<sup>st</sup> opportunity

Instead – Simon the Zealot, & Matthew the Tax Collector  
became spiritual brothers

& they served side-by-side for the Kingdom of God

**So – When the Lord Calls you,  
& you commit to Truly Follow him**

**He might just put you in his service  
along side someone you would have previously hated**

**THAT is the way the Lord changed the world**

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**Finally – there is  
*19 Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).***

While there is a LOT we can learn from his life  
**We'll have to save it for another time**

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**The QUESTION today is. . .**

**If you only had 12 – to take the life saving message  
of the Gospel to the Entire World**

are **THESE** the 12 you would have chosen?

When churches today – want to attract the big crowds . . .

are **THESE** the type of people that their  
**HR departments** are looking for?

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**WHY** did **Jesus CALL** this small **group**  
of mostly **fishermen** & **questionable characters**

to be **his representatives** to the **world** ??

**For the SAME reason that he called YOU & ME!!**

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)**

***7 But we have this treasure (talking about the Gospel) in jars of clay (cracked jars of clay), to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.***

**THAT IS WHY** he **chose** the **original 12**

And **THAT IS WHY** He chose **YOU & ME**

To **show the world**

that the **Power of Transformation** & **New Life**

**BELONGS To GOD** - & **COMES From God**

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**ALL God needs** – is a truly **SURRENDERED LIFE**

**With** a **TRULY SURRENDERED, COMMITTED LIFE**

**Jesus** will **POUR IN** the **Gifting**, & the **Refining**, & the **Power**  
to **Accomplish** whatever **he sets out** for us to **Accomplish**

**Because** – it is **NOT BY OUR MIGHT**

It is **NOT BY OUR POWER**

It is **By GOD'S SPIRIT** – says the Lord



**OUR Life** – is **REPLACED**, with the **Life of Christ** in us

& **BY** the **Life of Jesus** Christ **IN US**

**We TAKE PART** – in the **Greatest Eternal Plan** ever **created**

**The Grand Plan** of the **Eternal Kingdom of God**

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BUT – **hear me please** on this

**the 1<sup>st</sup> Disciples** - **SURRENDERED everything** in their life  
in **order** to **follow Jesus**

& we **MUST DO** the **SAME THING**

**& THRU that Total Surrender**

**Jesus** will **Transform our lives**  
& **USE our Lives** – **For HIS Glory**

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**The Lord loves** to use **WEAK** and **COMMON** people

**So - If you** see **some** of **yourself** in the **Original 12 Disciples** –  
**Take Heart** – & **Have Hope**

**Because You** are the **KIND** of **person**  
the **Lord LOVES to USE** – For **HIS Glory**

He's **just waiting** for you

to **FULLY SURRENDER** Your Life to Him  
& **Commit** to **TRULY FOLLOW HIM** – *ALL of your Days*

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**DON'T BE** part of **the CROWD** – Who **came** to **Jesus**  
**looking** for him to **GIVE THEM something**

**BECOME a True Disciple**

**SURRENDERING** Your **Life** to **Jesus** Christ  
& **Committing** to **FOLLOW HIM** – *ALL your Days*

**Let's Pray**