

Title: Devoted to the Mission

Description: In this Sunday morning message from Mark 3:20-21, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church follows Jesus down from the mountain into a crowded house in Capernaum, where the multitude pressed in so that He and His disciples could not so much as eat bread. It shows the Savior's tireless, wholehearted devotion to His Father's mission, setting aside His own meal to meet the spiritual hunger of the lost, and the sad irony of His own family, who came to lay hold on Him because they said, He is beside himself. Believers are encouraged not to be discouraged when unbelieving family and friends misunderstand their zeal, and all are invited to see that it is the world that has lost its senses, and to let Jesus, who gave His life a ransom for many, take custody of their lives.

Transcript:

...believer. The Lord Jesus Christ has this single-minded focus, a sold-out devotion unto the Lord Jesus Christ and the great commission and following after God's will.

But the world around those that are non-Christians will never understand you. They'll never understand why you do certain things the way you do certain things because they don't understand God's word. We anchor ourselves in God's word. After all, we come under his submission, his authority, and they don't understand that submission. They don't understand his authority.

In fact, if you are a sold-out, wholehearted, devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you're going to be totally consumed with him, aren't you? You're going to be consumed with his lavish love for you. He's going to put you in situations where you're going to be that shining bright light in the midst of darkness. He's going to put you in sorts of trials to show that his peace surpasses all understanding. You know this as a follower of Christ. You know this deeply in your times of devotion. We are praying and crying out to him. And when you are also in great gratitude or with great joy, all those experiences, he's there with you by the Holy Spirit living in you.

And we thank God, he'll never leave us nor forsake us because his word will continue to guide us and lead us in every twist and turns of life. He will always make the crooked path straight. And he will always be by our side. Even when we don't feel like it, he is ever present and near to help his children in a time of need. He is our heavenly father. Every good gift comes

from above. Every perfect gift comes from above. Amen.

So with that said, again, you are living amongst people. I'm speaking for those that are Christians, again, that are living amongst those that are unbelievers. Whether that's your family or your friends or your co-workers or your relatives, they might look at your spiritual zeal or the many sacrifices that you pour into whether in prayer or reading God's word or spending much time fellowshiping with other believers and of course being in God's house week in and week out.

Your priorities are different. They are biblical priorities. You are a Christian first. Then whatever other relationships you have outside of your relationship with the Lord come secondary. We know that. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Meaning he is first in our lives always. There is no second or third or fourth when it comes to the things of God. As long as you put him first, everything else will work out. He'll take care of all of our needs.

So, you may at times feel out of balance because after all, we're not just hiding under a bushel like the Lord Jesus says. We are always around people that will misunderstand us. If you're a real Christian, not hiding in the mountains, you're not a monk. You are living day in and day out surrounded by people that misunderstand you and it's going to catch you off guard. It's going to put you out of balance as it were.

And they might look at you that wow, you got this radical obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't see him. I don't see him. But they see you. They see the obedience that you have of the Lord Jesus Christ in you. That's what it means to be the visible gospel, the visible gospel. You are to them the gospel representation ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ as another way the apostle Paul puts it.

And they might think that you have lost your mind. What's wrong with you? Why are you doing all this? For what? And that purpose, again, they don't understand, that them that love God are called according to his purpose. Not my purpose, not your preferred purpose, God's purpose.

And so in Mark chapter 3 we're going to see the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of his earthly ministry. And in the synagogue we have looked that he had healed a man with the withered hand. We saw that in chapter 3, verse 1. And then we see him then going outside into the Sea of Galilee with great crowds following him in verse 7. And then we see him walk up the mountain

alone and he calls unto him whom he would appoint as then the twelve apostles beginning in verse 13.

Now we're in verse 20 to 21 and you can go ahead and turn there while I am giving this introduction. Jesus comes down from the mountaintop and now enters into a house and what follows is a remarkable revelation of Christ's tireless devotion to his father's work. Remember, he had to spend all night praying unto his father. And now he is tirelessly going and entering into someone's home and continuing the father's work contrasted with the misunderstanding and the shame felt by his own family members, his biological family members. That's where we're going to be taken to in these verses.

So with me, would you please go ahead and stand out of respect for God's word as I read from chapter 3, verses 20-21.

"And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself." This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to look at verse 20 of our again tireless, fully devoted Lord and Savior Jesus Christ serving the father in the work that he has set for him to accomplish the mission. The mission.

Then we're going to look at verse 21 and it's going to be broken up into two sections there where we're going to see the misguided intervention of his biological family saying, "No, don't continue." And then in the end we're going to see this profound irony that they're trying to get a hold of him but as you recall like the Pharisees try to get him trapped, they were not trapping him at all. We're going to see that irony here played out in a similar fashion in the end of verse 21.

So let's look at verse 20. The setting is returning to a particular home after ascending the mountain to ordain his twelve apostles. Jesus returns and in this biblical context home just doesn't mean that it was his home where he was born which was as we know in Nazareth. This is where rather his earthly ministry was. So he returned back to Capernaum and this is where again his public ministry was headquartered in. And so the gospel of Matthew records according to his account was that his events in Capernaum took place, that Jesus later then did in fact depart to his hometown in Nazareth. And we see that in Matthew 13:53-56.

Now that word home, I want to again explain in a little bit more detail. This could have been Peter's house. After all, Peter's house was in Capernaum. Remember, the Lord Jesus Christ went there to heal his mother-in-law. So it could have been his home, but we don't we're not 100% sure on that. But we know that Peter's house was located in Capernaum and he served many gatherings in this particular home that he's returning back to and we saw that in verse 29 of chapter 1.

Now the people of Capernaum were eager to hear the teaching and witness of his miraculous power. They followed him here as you see in verse 20. "And the multitude cometh together again." And so it means that they came before and now they're coming again to hear and witness his miraculous power. And they it seems like they were waiting expectantly literally like okay when is he coming? When is he coming? When is he going to return back to hear, that we can hear from him and receive miracles from him.

And so Jesus was away on the mountain and then somehow they were just waiting for him down at this particular home. And the moment the news spread that he had returned the crowd assembled instantaneously that's like breaking news, right? Like as normal people would, they want to hear and get on it right away. The same kind of situation. They instantly responded to this breaking news. And so the multitude poured into this house so quickly in such great numbers you see in the text it says a crowd was sitting around him. It's almost like they were pressing upon him shoulder to shoulder in this house. We see that similar situation in verse 32.

So we see the Lord Jesus there surrounded by this crowd and Mark records this detail here. It says, "so that they could not so much as eat bread." So Jesus and the disciples had just come off the mountain, most likely really hungry, really hungry, really thirsty, and they had not even had time to just sit down and just have a basic homecoming meal.

Yet because of the overwhelming spiritual hunger of the crowd that the Lord Jesus saw in the multitude, he lets the meal pass. He lets it pass.

Think about it. Imagine yourself after tirelessly working the night before, the day before rather, and then not going to bed, but praying all night and then ready to have a meal, but says, "No, there's a greater need here." Do you see the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ? And compels me should compel you to go. Only the son of God can do this. There is no one like him in the compassion he has or the spiritual hunger and the needs around. He is always making

himself available even now as he intercedes for us in prayer.

You see Jesus let the meal pass by. His service to the needy and lost occupied him completely. This is a wholehearted obedience. Again, unmatched to any human being. We're not to compare ourselves to Jesus here. We're just to see him as perfectly obedient to God's mission.

You see, here we see the shepherd's heart of Jesus Christ. This is a shepherd's heart. He prioritized the eternal spiritual needs of men over his own daily physical sustenance. He echoes what John in John 4:34. This is his own words in John 4:34. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." Beautiful, isn't it? The Lord Jesus Christ came to finish God's mission.

You see, brothers and sisters in Christ, let's let this search our hearts this morning. How concerned are we then? Not in comparison, but just this insight. How concerned are you about the spiritual needs of others compared to your own physical comfort? Let that sink in. Are your own material needs or your own meal times or your own leisure schedules more important to us than ministering to the hurting and the sick souls around us? Just a little glimpse, just a little glimpse for us to examine our own souls.

You see, when spiritual duties interrupt or rather disrupt our personal conveniences, do we react with impatience with people? Or do we willingly let the meal pass by to serve the kingdom of God in a so much more smaller way than what Jesus does for us? Amen. It's so important to take that pause. Why am I feeling this way? Why is physical comfort more important than the spiritual hunger and a need around me? Such an important time to pause and think.

When this world is rushing by and speedily chasing after the wind, as it were, we are to be a people that pauses and thinks at that moment. Lord, help me. Help me. I need your help. I know you're there, but help me to experience that help in a time of need.

See, we don't ever as believers in Christ want wisdom and understanding to just be at this head level. We want it to be at the heart level where we respond with obedience. Obedience is of the heart. It is of the heart. May we never be false witnesses with an external cloak hiding from opportunities that the Lord presents to us and not to be bitter or have unforgiveness or lack of compassion and on and on that where the heart impulses are. Are they after God's own heart?

Now that's verse 20. Let's go to verse 21. "And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself."

So who were his friends here in this part of the text? It's an idiom. It literally means those from him. From him. This refers to his own family members, his kinsmen, specifically his mother and his brothers who will physically arrive at the house just a few verses later. And we're going to see that in verse 31.

His family in Nazareth had received word at what has happened in Capernaum, all the things that he's been doing in his headquarters for his earthly ministry. And they were told about his tireless work. Think about the mother and desire. He must eat. He must take care of his physical body, right? And so the inability for physical rest from the crowds is on top of their mind, meaning his family members. The fact that he was not even taking time to eat even was a greater crushing desire to take him away.

You see how did his family react when they heard this report? I hope you understand. They saw just the physical, the flesh, the needs of this body of, in this case, Jesus. Did they praise God for all the miraculous ministry? I want you to think about that as we continue in the text. Or do they rejoice over the lost souls that were saved under the hearing of the truth from his own very mouth?

You see, they were just as confused and not much different from the religious leaders and between the Pharisees and the scribes. They were ashamed of him. They were ashamed of him. At this point in the text, they looked at his intense total devotion through human fleshly eyes.

And so Jesus had recently then withdrawn right from Capernaum because the Pharisees and Herodians were actively conspiring together to destroy him. We saw that in verses 6 to 7. But then his family made the trip from Nazareth to Capernaum hoping to find Jesus before the religious leaders and the scribes come to the home. They want to do a quick getaway as it were.

You see, they wanted him to keep a low profile. They wanted him not to continue doing what he has been doing. They thought the family's name was being placed at risk by his public actions. Remember, this is Eastern culture. It is very much under the guise of honor system. What you do is you're going to either honor me or you're going to dishonor me. And so this is very prevalent in the eastern culture. And so they viewed his single-minded zeal as reckless, believing he was foolish by putting himself in all sorts of harm's way and drawing dangerous attention from hostile religious authorities.

So what did they set out to do? Mark says they went out to lay hold on him. It means literally to take custody in the original language or to take actual physical control. Literally taking his body and moving him somewhere else. It's that kind of same word that we hear arresting someone or forcefully restraining someone. His family was literally coming to restrain him by force to stop his public preaching and to bring him back under their control. You see that how deceptive this is.

So then we see then in verse 21 and we see the irony. Look down with me where it says for they said he is beside himself. This is why the family want to take physical custody of him. He gives this exact words. He was beside himself. That expression literally means that he has lost his mind. That he was out of his senses, his physical senses.

So from their natural earthly perspective only thinking about the temporal and them in the midst of this whole situation for Jesus to draw massive crowds after the Pharisees had just conspired to kill him. They heard that news. To them, his disregard for his own meals, his own safety, and his own personal reputation indicate that he was acting irrationally. This is going to get to me. If you're going to die, I'm going to die. And so on and so on. You see, the fear of man is a snare.

So Jesus knew firsthand this experience of disagreements within own families. This should help us as believers in Christ who follow him with a wholehearted devotion and we should see how he responds. I want you to take note of that. You see many believers here this morning, this is a reminder of the cost of discipleship. But the cost is well worth it, isn't it? We should always remind ourselves of that payment for our sins, being completely clear before God, no longer having guilt, having true peace that will last for eternity. Is that cost worth it? That's how we should conclude time and time again.

His relatives were actually the very first to then attack his service. You see, the Pharisees didn't pull him away. The Herodians, the scribes didn't pull him away. His own family out of all those people are the ones that pull him away, that actually take physical force. We should take note of that there will be disagreements. They were not after all his sworn enemies. These were his very own family members. Yet they had no spiritual understanding of God's will or God's work. And they judged everything with human reason and concluded that he who lived totally and perfectly devoted to God concludes with he is out of his mind.

Have you ever experienced that within your own family members? I hope this helps you as a reminder. The Lord Jesus Christ went through all sorts of temptation and this one exactly he went through without giving in. That's what we should also see in this text. It's great. It's just amazing when we hear the temptations that he experienced. Yes, even at this level.

So now let's look at the transition here of an irony here in verse 21. His family came to Capernaum to take custody of Jesus to save him. But Jesus did not need his family to take custody of him or safety or protection. We know this from on this side of this text. He is after all the son of God. And so he knew precisely what he was doing. Nothing caught him off by surprise. He knew what he was doing by going back home knowing that his family members would be there.

Even when his own family did not believe in him, and we know from John 7:5 is a text to go to. They didn't believe who he was at this point. But yet Jesus was completely devoted to fulfilling the father's mission 100%. He was willingly and obeying God's will even though it would lead him directly to the cross. You see John 6:38 says, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Or Philippians 2:7-8, "But made himself of no reputation," no honor, "and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." This is our savior. And then Mark 10:45, if that wasn't enough, "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Glorious texts like this ought to just give us such peace that surpasses all understanding through our travails.

See, it was not Jesus who had lost his senses. It was the entire lost world that had lost its senses, including his own family. The world was hopelessly separated from God and spiritual life, the new life that we have in Christ.

And so, we're just so thankful as believers in Christ to see God do amazing things in our lives, to not give in. And see texts like John 8:34 talking about the world was enslaved to sin. "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily," or truly, truly, "I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Titus 3:3, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." Texts like this should humble us that we didn't do

anything to receive God's favor. He gave us God's favor in spite of us living this way.

So when we look upon other people, even our family members who are yet converted and that's again God's business of salvation, we should look at them. Hey, I was just like them. And when they're acting like this, I was just like them. This is where Jesus never was having to experience that because he was perfectly sinless. But here as Christians, we should remember our past. And we should always come with truth with love because it wasn't of us. It was God's favor upon us that we were transformed the kingdom of darkness of sin to the kingdom of his dear son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The world was on its way to eternal destruction. Right? That's the trajectory of every lost person that's outside of Christ. Unless Jesus took custody of us.

You see the irony? He's the one that took custody of us, not the other way around. No one wanted to seek God. Right? The Romans 3, no one seeks after God. No, not one. No one's righteous. No, not one.

So unless Jesus took custody of us, right, which Jesus remember said, I would bring everyone that you want me to bring, right, to the father. He's praying this. Everyone that you wanted me to receive, I will receive them. So you are one of them if you're a believer here this morning. It was God's eternal plan to take custody of you and save you from your sin. We don't boast in anyone else but boast in the Lord. We have that treasure earth and blessing in our flesh to glorify him.

So let's go back now to the text. His family attempt to restrain him, whether to save him from danger or then to preserve his family reputation.

It was a subtle distraction from his redemptive mission, right? Any way to get him off to the cross. If this was bad, imagine what they would understand it from the cross perspective. And so, anyway, there was going to be a preventing of him going to the cross. Those are distractions to the savior.

And it was a temptation similar to when Peter rebuked Jesus. Remember that for saying he must die and then prompting Christ to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan." And we're going to see that when we get to Mark 8:31-33. He sees that behind all of this is not flesh and blood as one text says, but against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan relinquishing his unclean spirits. And so that should be a reminder for us. Unless Jesus is praying for us, there's no way we can defeat Satan. Only by

the spirit can we win with the word, the sword of the spirit which is the word of God.

So notice that Jesus did not even stop to argue with his family. No words were shared. He simply continued in his father's service. You're going to see this in the continuation of the text which we'll get to next week.

How many can you relate? How many of you can relate where you just I can't deal with this. Like you physically, mentally, nothing in you can do anything about this. You just continue. Who's that carrying you through? The Lord. The Lord. I mean, moment by moment in my life, I can just share with you. It's too long to share, but I could just say this to you. He's been faithful every time. And he's been faithful to you as well. Every step of the way.

And so the lack of understanding from family and friends is to be expected to every believer who seeks to walk fully committed to God as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when you yield your life totally to the Lord Jesus, here are some things just as a reminder that unbelieving friends and family may not appreciate your zeal. You don't have to give a reason, a long lengthy reason. Or they may feel convicted to your lifestyle and accuse you of being fanatical. They may tell you're taking religion too far. You're beside yourself.

When that happens, or when they do, and they will, this is the key. Do not be discouraged. This is where we take the Savior's cue. You don't have to explain yourself. You just continue on doing what the father has called you to. That's it. You trust in him. You trust in him. You're walking the very footsteps of your savior at this stage and again and again and again. One step after the other.

So this morning we see two clear pictures. The savior who gave up even his meal to minister to lost souls. We thank God for what his soul is for ultimately. It's for our own spiritual needs. And he cared more about our soul than his physical matters as believers in this room. And so the savior also who endured the pain of being misunderstood and labeled as losing his mind made his own mind that this is the cost of the mission that God has put into his life and he was going to continue on no matter what. This is the condition of every follower that follows the Lord Jesus Christ and he will help you. That is assured.

And Jesus Christ did not shrink back from his father's mission. When his family called him crazy, nor did he back down when his enemies accused him. He went all the way to Calvary's cross, taking custody of our sins, paying our ransom, and redeeming us from eternal condemnation. And so his mission to

the cross for our sins can never be emulated.

But two thought-provoking questions, I leave you this morning with these. Are you willing to be thought out of your mind for the sake of Jesus Christ? That's for the Christian here in this room. And then second, to those that are yet believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, have you recognized that without Christ, you are the one who is spiritually lost? Will you let Jesus take custody of your life today to forgive your sins and make you a child of God? This is what I will be praying for this morning.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer.

Thank you, Father, for just a wonderful example of our Lord Jesus Christ. How he endured such affliction from religious leaders down to his own family members. Lord, he was willing to not open his mouth. We thank you, Father. His perfect obedience, his perfect sinless life that truly is the son of God paying for our sins with his precious holy blood that we can be clear of our guilt, clear of our sins, and receive the righteousness of Christ so that we can truly not only think like him, but live like him by the power of your Holy Spirit. May we continue, Lord, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, have compassion like the Lord Jesus. Help us to imitate in those areas, Lord, where we lack in where we need your strength and need your help and your guidance. Please continue to help my brothers and sisters in Christ as they continue to navigate similar situation in their own lives.

I also pray for those that are unconverted, Lord, that they will understand they are the ones that are spiritually lost. And I pray, Father, that if they are truly the ones that you have called to be received, this message would resonate with them because this is the exact reason why Jesus came to them so that they do not have to stay lost in their sin, lost in their ways, and ultimately end up in eternal damnation. Father, you're the one that disrupts their life. And we thank you, Lord, that you use it with your words. So I pray that they would receive the loving savior not because they have to hold on to him but because he will hold on to them. Father, please bless to this end, and we'll thank you, and that you would have been pleased with the service. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.