

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM – The Gospel of Mark (Mark 3:7-35)

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Mark 3:7-18 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. ⁸ When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. ¹⁰ For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. ¹¹ Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." ¹² But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him. ¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

When they heard about all he was doing (v. 8): This is both a good thing and a cautionary thing. People were drawn to Jesus for his healing acts. However, they were not necessarily desirous of accepting his teaching.

John 2:23-25 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

He gave them strict orders not to tell others about him (v. 12): Again, we see that Jesus wanted to keep the "messianic secret."

He appointed twelve...and to have authority to drive out demons (vv. 13-14): It is important to keep in mind that the apostles were given authority that the "average" Christian does not have.

2Corinthians 12:12 I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

He gave the name Peter...he gave the name Boanerges (vv. 16-17): Jesus had the habit of giving nicknames that exemplified a person's character.

Mark 3:20-21 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

He is out of his mind (v. 21): Jesus' family had good intentions. They had his human best interest in mind. However, as the saying goes, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

We have to remember to keep in mind that God's purposes are not necessarily man's purposes. God had in mind a suffering messiah.

James 3:15-17 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Mark 3:22-36 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." ²³ So Jesus called them over to him and

began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin." ³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit." ³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." ³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. ³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

By the prince of demons he is driving out demons...never be forgiven (v. 23 and 29): Here we learn that the unforgiveable sin is to attribute the saving work of the Holy Spirit to the devil. This is like saying the medicine that will heal my illness is poison and, therefore, refuse to take the medicine and be healed.

Because of the very nature of the sin, it keeps me from being forgiven and saved.

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived (v. 31) Apparently, the family had walked all the way from Nazareth to save Jesus from himself. This would have brought a lot of social pressure on to Jesus.

This also indicates that Jesus' family was not fully aware of his true messianic mission.

Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother (v. 35): The big lesson here is that we are to prefer God over even our family when they stand in the way or hinder our relationship with God.

This principle is remarkable because God's law and natural law both require us to obey (as children) and honor (as adults), our parents.

The diabolical anti-family nature of modern Western culture keeps many from seeing how essential the family is to God's plan for mankind.

A Mini-Course in the Destruction of the Western Family

It is the "Gramsci's principle" (Antonio Gramsci). French journalist Jean-François Revel pointed out the Gramsci principle "was that [Marxists] must begin by influencing the culture, winning the intellectuals, the teachers, implanting itself in the press, the media, the publishing houses."

"While classical Marxism argued that capitalism and the class structure it created must be overthrown because it is oppressive to workers, cultural Marxism argues that it is not economics that creates oppression but rather the nuclear family, traditional morality and concepts of race, gender and sexual identity." -- *Moses Apostaticus*

For the sake of God and His law, contemporary Christians must assert radically pro-family values.

Every era has a key way that Christians risk their lives for the Lord and MUST be courageous. In the late 1980's Pope John Paul II and Polish Christians led the defeat of Communism.