

Mark 3:7-35

Responses to Jesus

Introduction: Good morning Image faith family and thanks for joining us today. My name is Nathan Neufang and I am one of the pastors at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga on the other side of Atlanta. Whether you are checking us out online or you are here in person we are so glad you are here. If this is your first Sunday, I'm not on staff here at Image, but I love this church and I love your pastor.

I'm grateful for Pastor Mike and his friendship. We have been friends over a decade now and I'm thankful that God is continuing to use him here in the ATL area. I love Pastor Aaron and Pastor Bryson. I have met your other staff members and I know that they love this area, they love you, and they want to see people come to Jesus and be disciples. I'm grateful for their gospel friendships as well.

Pastor Mike wanted me to let you know that his family has tested positive for Covid but that he is on the mend. He misses you guys and cannot wait to be back with you. If you get a chance, reach out and encourage him this week. I know he would appreciate it.

You guys have been in a series called "one more" where you are looking at sharing the gospel and really being about one more coming to faith in Jesus.

Today, I would like to consider our response to Jesus in light of the responses we see in Mark 3. So if you have a bible you can start making your way to Mark 3.

If we want to see one more person come to Christ and we want to see the Gospel continue to advance in our area, we have to evaluate how we are first responding to Jesus and then making sure that we are giving the opportunity for others to respond to Jesus. So let us talk about some instances when I didn't have a good response. Here are several times when I wasn't sure how to respond.

Opening Illustration: Ever had a situation before and you weren't sure how to respond? Let me give you some examples.

- Evan Drop off at Kindergarten. I'm so proud of you buddy. I'm proud of me too.
- Me proposing to Marianne and getting the answer "Are you serious?"
- I received a birthday card this week from my wife's grandmother, who is turning 96, that said "On the day that you were born, the angels got together... and were severely reprimanded."

How am I supposed to respond to those situations?

Today we are going to see 5 different groups of people who are responding to Christ. And I want us to see how the groups are responding and see if we are responding in a similar fashion or if we are responding in ways that differ from those groups we

are going to read about today. And then I want to ask you to respond to Jesus, whether you have been a believer or haven't yet started following Jesus, you need to respond today.

MIS: Believe in Jesus and Be on mission.

I. Crowd: Don't just marvel at the works of Jesus, experience Him. (vv. 7-12)

Illustration: I love my alma mater UNC-Chapel Hill. I have always loved watching them play basketball. It was great in 2005 to watch them beat Illinois in the National Championship Game on TV or watch them beat Michigan State in 2009. However, it was different when I went to the National Championship game that they won in 2017 in AZ. I marveled watching it on TV. But I experienced it in a different way because I was there.

A. It is tempting for us to come to Jesus or call others to Jesus for what He can do, rather than who He is. (v. 8)

- Previously we saw the Pharisees were plotting with the Herodians because Jesus had claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath and healed a man on the Sabbath. He was a threat to both their kingdoms.
- But the Common folks were fascinated and wanted to see what was going on.
- These people were coming from all over. And the geography is wide, so clearly word has gotten around about Jesus.
- It seems that the people are trying to touch him because they believe that they will be healed if they do.

- One commentator wrote, “Idumea 120 miles due south, from points east of the Jordan, and from Tyre and Sidon fifty miles to the north.”¹
- Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem were principally Jewish territories; Idumea and Transjordan were mixed Jewish-Gentile regions; and Tyre and Sidon were largely if not entirely Gentile regions.²
- **This is the pre-covid black Friday sale at Wal Mart kind of Crowd.**
 - 1. The people were coming to Jesus because He was healing people and performing signs. (v. 8)**
 - 2. Yet, the people were not concerned with Jesus. (v. 9)**

Edwards writes, “The crowd is a paradox. Its needs command Jesus’ attention, and Jesus is fully attentive to the misery present in its numbers, but its clamor is not a response of faith.”³

Application:

- Don’t give all the benefits of the gospel and bury the lead. The greatest benefit of the Gospel is we get God.
- Don’t be persuaded by a church or pastor that lifts up signs and wonders over Jesus’s Words and presence.

¹ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 103.

² James R. Edwards, 103.

³ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 104.

- Let's not be a church that is just about the show... Let's experience Christ and show His Love to our community! Let's continue to be a light in Marietta, our state, and around the World.

II. Demons: Don't just recognize the identity of Jesus, gladly submit to Him. (v. 11)

So we have the crowd and now we have the demons that Jesus is interacting with. Important to reiterate what other pastors have said, We should pay attention when the demons start talking. Their theology is usually pretty good, but they hate God and refuse to willingly submit to Him.

I think there are three things from their confession that is important for us.

A. We should know Jesus. (v.11)- Not know about him. Have a relationship with him. Maybe today you need to apologize to God because you have neglected the relationship or maybe you need to start the relationship today. Do you know this kind compassionate Jesus? The one that took your sin at the cross. Do you really spend time with Him and make Him a priority? The demon knew about Him. We should know about Him and know him personally.

B. We should know His Father. (v.11) Can't be a son without a father. We should know the Father. We are trinity folk here. We believe that there is One God who exists eternally in three distinct persons, the father, son, and the Holy Spirit who are all co-eternal and are of one essence. But seeing Jesus tells us about the son, but it also tells us about the Father.

C. We should know His Authority. (vv. 11-12) Mark hits this theme over and over. The Demons understand. They respond—not in worship—but instead in fear. They know he is in control, but they hate it.

But unlike the demons, these truths should motivate us to gladly submit to Him.

- Brooks writes, “The demon weren’t confessing commitment but of fear (cf. Jas 2:19)
 - In the ancient world, if one knew and used the name of a divine being, he or she could control that being.”⁴
 - So they thought they could control Christ.
- Mark probably intended to contrast what the demons acknowledged as a fact with what the religious leaders were not willing to consider as a possibility.⁵
 - But neither the religious crowd we are going to see in a bit or those that came before would admit that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁴ James A. Brooks, *Mark*, vol. 23, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 70.

⁵ James A. Brooks, 70.

- There is a difference between our glad submission and the submission that is coming for the demons and any that do not repent and believe. Philippians 2:10-11¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- You know the only other person in Mark so far to identify Jesus as Son of God. God the Father.
- Jesus' authority over the demonic realm is total. Demonic forces are left with no other choice than to confess his sovereignty by their subjection.⁶

Application:

- Don't be a church that just informs without being transformed.
- Don't be able to win bible trivia and not know Jesus. This was my story before I came to Christ. I knew all the right things to say, I had memorized verses, I knew where things were in the Bible, but I didn't know Christ. If that is you today, repent and believe. Trust in Christ and start a relationship with Him.
- We all will submit to Christ because he is sovereign. He is in control of all things. Don't think you are good if you have not submitted to Christ. Repent and Believe.

III. Family: Don't merely associate with Jesus, do His Will. (vv. 20-21, 31-35)

⁶ James R. Edwards, 105.

Having seen the crowd, hearing what Jesus is saying, and seeing how the religious leaders and the political leaders are plotting to kill Jesus, His family steps in and says, alright it is time to bring Jesus back Home. Because they think he is crazy.

His family did love him and are worried about His safety. Danny Akin says they also are probably worried about the shame that they will bring upon their name. It was a shame based culture.

We are misunderstanding Jesus when we are simply associated with him and not those who have repented and believed.

A. Misunderstanding Christ leads us to try and silence Him. (v.20)

When we don't understand something, it is easier most of the time when we want it to simply go away. We don't understand what Christ wants from us, we pretend it is not there and will not go away.

- Widows and Orphans
- Caring for the marginalized/poor in our community
- Be hospitable
- Giving
- Evangelism

- Fighting against injustice and people that don't want to see all God's people as image bearers.

B. Misunderstanding Christ leads us to accuse His ways and His words of being "crazy." (v. 20)

We do this when we are around Christians, Church, or loosely associated with Christ but we don't actually follow Christ and do His Will.

- Mourn with those who mourn... but you don't have all the facts... that's crazy.
- Loving your neighbor... that's crazy.
- Loving your enemies... that's crazy.
- Forgive that person... that's crazy.
- Reject pride in your life and be humble... that's crazy.

Application:

- Being around church and church folks is great, but it doesn't make you a believer.
- Our Pastor would say proximity to Jesus doesn't = experiencing the presence of Jesus.
- Don't be ashamed of God's word. The Bible says that all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable.
- Don't compromise. Trust in Christ's words.

IV. Scribes: Don't reject Jesus, believe in Him. (vv. 22-30)

The Scribes have a major quandary. They see Jesus doing these incredible things, and they can't admit that Jesus is from God or He is God.

The miracles and signs do not ensure faith. There is something inside of us that thinks that if we only saw Jesus perform these miracles, we would believe more but that is just not true.

A. We reject Jesus when we attribute the works of God to Satan. (vv. 23-27)

1. The Scribes recognize the Power and Authority of Christ but will not identify Him as sent from God or God Himself.

2. They choose to believe that Jesus is aligned with Satan.

B. We reject Jesus when we continually refuse to believe that Jesus is God. (v. 28)

It is not a single act but a habitual action. The imperfect tense V. 30 could be translated they kept on saying.

1. You cannot be forgiven if you continually reject who Christ is and what he accomplished on the cross.

2. Forgiveness is given to those that know who Jesus is and Trust in what Jesus did!

The parables are illustrating that Satan is not able cast out Satan and stand. But instead Jesus as the stronger man has bound the

strong man. He is in control and in power and the Scribes are attributing authority to the wrong person.

One pastor said, “First, let us note what it is not. It is not cursing the Holy Spirit. It is not taking the Lord’s name in vain, though that is certainly a vile sin. It is not adultery or sexual perversion. It is not murder, even multiple murders, or genocide.⁷ Very simply it is the *ongoing, continual rejection* of the witness of the Holy Spirit to the Divinity and Saviorhood of Christ.⁸

The sin against the Holy Spirit is thus not an indefinable offense against God, but a specific misjudgment that Jesus is motivated by evil rather than by good, that he is empowered by the devil rather than by God.⁹

Essentially it is saying that Jesus is not God and he is not good and if you die with this belief, you will spend eternity in Hell away from the LORD.

Commentator said: Finally, it is imperative to note that Mark places this saying as a warning, not as a condemnation or cause for anxiety. The same saying that warns against ascribing evil to Jesus also assures of God’s willingness to forgive “all the sins and blasphemies of men.” Anyone who is worried about having committed the sin against the Holy Spirit has not yet committed it, for anxiety of having done so is evidence of the potential for

⁷ R. Kent Hughes, [*Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior*](#), vol. 1, Preaching the Word (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 92.

⁸ R. Kent Hughes, [*Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior*](#), 92.

⁹ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 123.

repentance. There is no record in Scripture of anyone asking forgiveness of God and being denied it!¹⁰

Application:

- If you are a believer in Christ you do not have to worry about committing the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you and God will not go back on His promise. Nothing can snatch you from His hand.
- If you are not a believer there is a chance for you to repent of your sin and trust in Christ.
- Paul Tripp: “There was no hope for them because they rejected the power and the grace of the Messiah who is their only hope; and if you reject your only hope, you have no hope.

V. Disciples: Don’t misunderstand your calling, be on mission with Him. (vv. 13-21)

A. Jesus chooses His disciples.

James Edwards:

Rabbi in the ancient world did not call their disciples, The disciples chose their rabbi much like people would choose a college today.¹¹

Nor would a rabbi dare leave the impression that his person superseded the Torah.¹²

¹⁰ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 124.

¹¹ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 112.

¹² James R. Edwards, 112.

Rabbinic disciples would ideally see in their tutor a means of mastering the Torah and a model of what they themselves might become.¹³

Edwards on Christ being different:

Jesus is the sole and exclusive subject of the call.¹⁴

Nothing—not even the Torah or God—is presented as more important than Jesus.¹⁵

**1. Jesus chooses us to be involved with His mission.
(v.13)**

2. He calls us to Himself. (v.13)

Commentator writes: “Discipleship does not consist in what disciples can do for Christ, but in what Christ can *make* of disciples.”¹⁶

B. Jesus appoints His disciples for a purpose.

1. We are appointed to be with Him. (v. 14)

Edwards: Discipleship is a relationship before it is a task, a “who” before a “what.”¹⁷

Hit: Identity in Christ.

¹³ James R. Edwards, 112.

¹⁴ James R. Edwards, 112.

¹⁵ James R. Edwards, [*The Gospel according to Mark*](#), 112.

¹⁶ James R. Edwards, 112.

¹⁷ James R. Edwards, 113.

2. We are appointed to go and proclaim the Gospel to others. (v. 14)

Disciples learn from their master but apostles are those who are sent out.

3. We are given spiritual authority because of Christ. (v. 15)

a. We are part of a new kingdom, if we are in Christ, that is pushing back the darkness.

b. In Ephesians 1, Paul is showing the authority of Christ over all things so we should recognize His authority and power (Eph.1:15-23). We do not go out seeking the demonic, but we are equipped to deal with all these things because of the authority of Jesus.

Discipleship consists of being *with* Jesus, of *proclaiming* his message, and of *acting* in His name by opposing evil.

The Christian Life is not boring. If it is boring you aren't doing it right because Jesus called you to a mission. We have the opportunity to be with Him and involved with taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

VI. Believe in Jesus and Be on Mission (vv. 31-35)

A. Family, nationality, status, or any other type of our identity does not harm or help our ability to trust in Jesus. (vv. 31-32)

- No one is born a Christian. You have to repent and believe.
- Talk about church membership and joining a family.
- Talk about faith family becomes more personal in a connect group.

B. Those who listen to Christ and do the Will of God are those that understand the identity and work of Jesus. (vv. 34-35)

Not Just knows. But Does!

Brooks: “Those seated in a circle around him” obviously are Jesus’ disciples. Despite all their failures, Jesus acknowledged them as those who did God’s will and therefore his true family¹⁸

Doing God’s Will and following Christ will not always be easy, but it will always be best.

Some will have to abandon

- Family
- Friends
- Political parties
- Jobs

¹⁸ James A. Brooks, [Mark](#), 74.

But Jesus gives us comfort that we will always have a family in Christ. And this is what makes the Gospel so great!

Doing God's Will is about being in the family and participating in God's mission.

This should be our response today.

Unbeliever: You cannot do God's Will until you repent and believe. You can't. This is the good news of the Gospel. If you are an unbeliever here this morning this is the way to respond. Whether you are watching online or here on this field you can repent. You have to turn from your sin and trust that Christ is your only hope, he is your only way. Not by being a good moral person. Not by voting a particular way. Not by doing anything other than Trust Jesus. Don't waste time. We do not know when our last day will be, but if we trust Jesus we can know that we will live with him for eternity. He is a good God who loves us. Don't leave today and not make a decision. Send me an email to one of the pastors. Come and see us down front after the service. Let someone know so you can start to grow in your faith. Take your next step in Baptism and get involved in a community Group.

Believer: Maybe you have been neglecting the relationship with Christ. Maybe you have been ashamed of God's Word, and you think his commands are crazy. Maybe you are a Christ-follower but you do not see yourself on mission with Christ. Today all

those things can change. As we sing this song feel free to pray. Feel free to rise and sing.

Maybe you just need to thank Christ that he died for you. He made you part of His family. He chose you!

Maybe you need to identify that next one to come to faith or to join you here at Image. Today pray for that person or pray that God will reveal that person to you.

You might need to take your first step as a disciple and get baptized.

Believe in Jesus and Be on Mission (vv. 31-35)

Respond to God's Word. Let us pray.