

# Mark 3:13-35 – 25 April 2021

## “Ever Deeper With Jesus”

### Introduction

- \*Jesus has begun travelling thru Galilee in the north
  - \*Preaching all should repent & prepare for the Kingdom
  - \*Jesus is here as the embodiment of God, to perfectly represent God (He said, “I & My Father are one”)
  - \*Jesus’ claims of being God are attracting enemies, skeptics and on-lookers
  - \*But Jesus has been looking for followers that would become friends that would become family
  - \*Jesus is preaching about the Kingdom of God, but this news is only as good as when you realize that the Kingdom is for you! What grace!
  - \*God wants us to enter into the Kingdom and come ever closer to Him as we embrace His love & grace!
- Let’s go 3 steps deep as we go ever closer to Jesus**

# 1<sup>st</sup> step toward Christ is the call of ordinary people (Vs 13-19)

Read Vs 13-19 – Who are these men?

1. These are not the religious or the influential
2. These are 12 ordinary men
  - a. 12 ordinary, feeble men
  - b. 12 from different backgrounds
3. Think of them as 3 groups of 4 men
  - a. Simon (Peter), Andrew, James & John
  - b. Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Matthew (Levi), Thomas
  - c. James the son of Alpheus (the less), Thaddaeus (Judas not Iscariot the brother of James, or Lebbaeus), Simon the Canaanite (the zealot), Judas Iscariot

Consider when the choosing of the 12 is happening

1. It's only 18 months before the cross
2. It only takes a short time to change the world
3. You can go from where you're at, to a completely different person in 18 months w/ Jesus!

Now, what is it that Jesus is calling them to?

1. Vs 14 – “To be with Jesus”
  - a. This is primary – nothing else matters if this isn’t happening – no power w/o this
2. Vs 14 – “To be sent to preach”
  - a. Once you’re with Jesus, you have the energies you need to help the world
  - b. But what the world primarily needs to the eternal Gospel – it’s a spiritual work
3. Vs 15 – “To have power to heal sickness & to cast out devils”
  - a. Although the 12 had this in abundance to authenticate their ministry, the believer today can still expect God to work thru him this way.

Now, why is Jesus calling them to this ministry?

1. It focuses the attention for the bold teaching and powerful works squarely on Jesus.
2. It’s God’s power flowing thru people of insignificance (people like us) that brings Him glory

## **2<sup>nd</sup> step toward Christ is belief that Jesus is the Savior (Vs 20-30)**

Read Vs 20-21

1. Family thought he was crazy. Why?
  - a. B/c He left home to be itinerant preacher
  - b. For choosing strange men
  - c. For showing strange power
  - d. B/c powerful people wanted to kill Him
2. Those closest to you are often least likely to listen

Read Vs 22-26

1. They agreed Jesus was powerful, question is, where does His power come from?
2. A country, family, or spiritual kingdom is one
  - a. If it's not, it's short-term and won't last
3. Their perspective was that there are many good (or bad) factions that can be against each other
  - a. Not true, there's only 1 good & 1 bad
4. They've already written off the chance that Jesus is of God, so they say He must be of Satan

## Read Vs 27

1. Jesus is casting out devils b/c He's stronger than Satan and of a different kingdom
2. Why would Satan allow someone of his own kingdom to be working against him?
  - a. Satan is bad but he's not stupid
3. There are not two equal kingdoms at war – Jesus runs the kingdom that is stronger.

## Read Vs 28-30

1. There's only one charge that will be brought against those at the G.W.T. judgement
  - a. That is the sin of rejecting Jesus Christ thru the HS's offer
    - i. B/c of our sin we're born into a world that is a sinking ship.
    - ii. Jesus has offered the only way out & if you reject that offer, then you're volunteering to stay on a condemned sinking ship
  - b. Read John 3:17-19

## **3<sup>rd</sup> step toward Christ is living in the will of God**

(Vs 31-35)

Read Vs 31

1. Jesus had half brothers & sisters (James, Joses, Simon & Judas)
2. Mary was not a perpetual virgin as some say

Read Vs 32-35

1. Now if I was a Catholic, I would be very concerned by the fact that Mary had no greater access to Jesus than anyone else
2. The relationship that is needed is the bond of doing the will of God
  - a. This is greater than family
  - b. This is kingdom family of common purpose
3. Doing the will of God
  - a. Read Matt 7:21 – “Not all that say unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter...”
  - b. Turn to Matt 21:28-32 – Which did the will of his father?

## Conclusion

So how close to Christ are you walking?

### **1. You've been called to follow Him**

- a. The power isn't in the people that are called
  - i. We're frail & pretty ordinary
- b. It's b/c we're weak that His power becomes amazing!
- c. Only takes a short time to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary by the power of HS

### **2. Have you believed that Jesus is the Savior?**

- a. Jesus isn't just supernatural, He's God
- b. His call is to believe that you're empty & He is all that you need & the only thing that you need
- c. Rejecting that is the only thing that would keep you in condemnation & end in hell.

### **3. Are you living in accordance with God's will?**

- a. Now, true believers, for their love of God, live in accordance to His will.
- b. Christians don't do the will of God to earn His love, we do the will of God b/c we're loved!