

# Journey Through Mark: Dangerous Crowds

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 01/30/2022



## I. People-Watching

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**Key Truth:** Be Careful Who You Run With

## II. A Great Crowd Follows Jesus

Mark 3:7-12

v. 7-8

Opportunists

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v. 9-10

Walking Wounded

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v. 11-12

Adversaries

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Point: Know Why, When, And How To Get Away

## III. Conformity & Community

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**Mid-Week Devotion** (Take time this week to pray & respond to the following)

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus was pursued by individuals and groups motivated by their own self-interests. Some sought to exploit Him for His power. Others wanted to disrupt or destroy His mission to proclaim the Good News. Though many bore ill-intentions toward Jesus, some genuinely sought the One who claimed and proved to be, the promised Messiah. Those who came to Jesus with open hearts and minds were beneficiaries of the forgiveness, fulfillment, and freedom that only He could give. You and I should want to be counted among those highly blessed people.

Groups can be a powerful force. They have a way of capturing our attention, shaping our perception, and shifting our focus. When it comes to our interactions with others and our attitude toward Jesus, we must be wise and careful about who we “run” with. The world is full of opportunists, victims, and adversaries who will drag others down with them if allowed. We are not called to be anyone’s Savior, we are called to lead our fellow human beings to their Creator and Redeemer. Along the way, we get to love and serve them as Christ has commanded. We are not expected, however, to so immerse ourselves in the lost world whose soul corrupting influence destroys our own journey of sanctification.

Christian, you are not invincible. You need to know why, when, and how to get away. Rest, refreshment, and renewal are fundamental to your spiritual health. You cannot be conformed into the likeness of your Savior if you are rarely (or never) still, sensitive, and quiet in the solace of His presence. Be careful that you do not get lost out there in the world you are called to help reach.

To what group(s) does your highest allegiance belong? To what image are you being conformed? Is it your own or that of your Savior? Prayerfully reflect upon your interactions with others and your time spent with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw you near to Him and out of the influence of that which will slow your spiritual growth.