

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 12 - PEOPLE ARE A HASSLE

Mark 3:7-21

Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed, from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Today We Will See that ...

1. Everyone has an agenda
2. Jesus calls agenda-driven people into relationship
3. Jesus changes our agendas

1. Everyone Has an Agenda

- People are a hassle because they have agendas

The Crowd's Agenda

When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. Mark 3:8-10

The Disciples

He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Mark 3:16-19

The Disciples' Agenda

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:33-35

James and John's Agenda

In Hebrews Boanerges (which mark renders sons of thunder) means the loud ones or hot tempered pair

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ... And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. Mark 10:35-37, 41

Peter's Agenda

"But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Mark 8:29,31-33

Judas Iscariot's Agenda

... and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him ... Mark 3:19

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him. Mark 14:10-11

The Family Agenda

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:20-21



What is the Underlying Agenda Here?

- I am so happy we don't argue like we used to
- I just love being with you
- I'm enjoying the time I am spending with my family
- I am so thankful for my friends
- You've been so good to me
- It's great to know that I have found someone I can truly trust
- We're such kindred spirits
- It's wonderful how our personalities are so complementary
- This has been fun; let's get together again
- We have such a great sex life
- Before I met you, I was so lonely
- It's great we have known each other for so long
- We've had so many nice times together
- We've had our problems, but we have always been able to work through them

From Relationships: A Mess Worth Making by Paul Tripp & Tim Lane – p. 36	Seeks/Wants	Acceptable Cost	Nightmare/Fear	Others’ Experience	Tell-tale Emotion/Action
Self-centredness	Attention, approval	Will sacrifice control and independence	Rejection, not being recognised or affirmed	Others feel used, minimised, smothered	Anxious, needy
Self-rule	To be right, in control	Will sacrifice intimacy and unity	Being seen as wrong, being dependent	Others feel coerced, manipulated	Angry
Self-sufficiency	Independence, time alone	Will sacrifice intimacy, mutually helpful community	The dependence and neediness of others	Others feel ignored, unappreciated	Cold, distant
Self-righteousness	Being right in the eyes of others	Will sacrifice relationships that challenge or confront	Being wrong, guilty, or condemned	Others feel challenged, condemned, or dismissed	Aggressive, argumentative
Self-satisfaction	Pleasure (self-defined)	Will sacrifice community if convenient	Others interfering with personal pleasure	Others feel like objects, not companions	Controlling, demanding, dissatisfied
Self-taught	A platform for one’s own opinion	Will sacrifice growing together if you disagree	Being told what to think, say, and do	Others feel patronised, disrespected	Opinionated, domineering

Paul Tripp & Tim Lane

The more satisfying the relationship, the less conscious you will be of self-interest. The most destructive diseases are the ones that don't show themselves in obvious ways.

from Relationships: A Mess Worth Making

2. Jesus Calls Agenda Driven People into Relationship

And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Mark 3:13-19

Colliding Agendas and Their Purpose

Matthew the Tax Collector

- Collaborated with the Romans
- Ripped off his own people
- Traitor

Simon the Zealot

- Was (or had been) a member of a movement committed to holy war against Rome.
- Conspired for political control

Tim Chester

God is using the different people, the contrasting personalities, in your church to change your heart. He's using the difficult people, the annoying people, the sinful people. He's placed you together so you can rub off each other's rough edges. It's as if God has put us, like rocks, into a bag and is shaking us about so that we collide with one another. Sometimes sparks fly, but gradually we become beautiful, smooth gemstones. Remember next time someone is rubbing you up the wrong way that God is smoothing you down! God has given you that person in his love as a gift to make you holy.

Paul Tripp/Tim Lane

What vision for relationships is the Bible painting for us? ... the highest joys of relationship grow in the soil of the deepest struggles. Struggles are not obstacles, but instruments in God's hands. Every struggle is an opportunity to experience God's grace yourself and give it to the other person. Think about your relationships. Which are the most meaningful? Aren't they the ones that have lasted over time and have gone through excruciating difficulty? If you look at your own character, some of your deepest growth has been born out of great stress and trial ... be honest. What do you want out of your relationships? What do you want God to accomplish in those relationships? Will you settle for comfort, approval, ease, and happiness? Or are you willing to take up the biblical vision for relationships?

3. God Changes Self-Interested Agendas

... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:13

David Powlison

The deepest longings of the human heart can and must be changed if mankind is to become all that God designed us to be. Our deviant longings are illegitimate masters; even where the object of desire is a good thing, the status of the desire usurps God. Our cravings should be recognized in order that we may more richly know God as the Saviour, Lover, and Converter of the human soul. God would have us long for him more than we long for his gifts. To make us truly human, God must change what we want; we must learn to want the things Jesus wanted.

Jesus Learned to Want What His Father Wanted You Can Too

Mark 14:35-36

And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

One has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Powlison Continued

The Christian life is a great paradox. Those who die to self, find self. Those who die to their cravings will receive many times as much in this age, and, in the age to come, eternal life (Luke 18:29). They will find new passions worth living for and dying for. If I crave happiness, I will receive misery. If I crave to be loved, I will receive rejection. If I crave significance, I will receive futility. If I crave control, I will receive chaos. If I crave reputation, I will receive humiliation. But if I long for God and his wisdom and mercy, I will receive God and wisdom and mercy. Along the way, sooner or later, I will also receive happiness, love, meaning, order, and glory.